

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

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Eccelesiastical Affairs.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

OUR paper contains this week as full a report of the Autumnal Meeting of the Congregational Union at Plymouth as the space we can give to it will admit of. The inaugural address of the President, the Rev. Joshua Harrison, somewhat abridged, appeared in our columns last week, and a report of the public meeting held on Wednesday evening, for the exposition and enforcement of Free-Church principles, we find ourselves obliged to hold over to our next week's number. Our readers, perhaps, will expect from us some comment on the proceedings.

In reference to that which is, and must ever be, the most important feature of every gathering of this nature, we are devoutly thankful in being able to express most unfeignedly our satisfaction and thankfulness. No one, we think, can read even our cursory outline of the proceedings without being impressed by the conviction that personal religious life of the highest kind was recognised by a vast majority, if not by the whole, of the ministers and delegates present, as the true and indispensable basis of denominational prosperity. Perhaps the most valuable service which can be rendered to the age in which we live by the periodical assemblies of the Congregational Union is their informal but unquestionable manifestation of the fact that now, as of yore, "the life of God in the soul of man," and its development as a motive power to all religious work, constitutes the primary object, as it is, we trust, the deepest concern, of those who on such occasions represent the Congregational Churches. The times in which we live are not very favourable to the maintenance of this condition of associated Christian life. The temptations they present are apt to allure men to criticism rather than to nourish the roots of their faith and piety; to pay more regard to institutions than to cherish the spirit which they are intended to express; to be more solicitous and active about Christianity in its external operations, than in its inner life; and we rejoice that the pervading tone of sentiment characterising the meetings of the Congregational Union opposes a sensible check to the spreading influence of this tendency.

If, however, we may speak our mind without offence, we must confess that in relation to other matters, the deliberations of last week did but little to raise our expectations in regard to the proximate future of Congregationalism. We say "the proximate future," because we have not the slightest misgiving that ultimately all that is true and vital in this particular ecclesiastical system, as well as in other systems, will accomplish what the Author of truth and life designed it to accomplish. In other words, we have the most unfaltering confidence that its essential principles, in whatever temporary combinations, will, in the long run, both work themselves clear of what is foreign to them, and assimilate whatever is in harmony with their spirit. It is hardly possible, however, and, perhaps, it is not really desirable, that human interest in spiritual institutions should attach itself exclusively to the abstract ideas which they embody, and feel no throb of concern as to what becomes of the forms in which they clothe themselves, and the historical garb which they may assume. We should be glad to be able to believe, without any mixture of doubt, that God had given to Congregationalists, as such, a distinctive and a great work to do in Christendom, that Congregationalists clearly recognised that mission, and that they were making nearer and nearer approaches to its accomplishment. It would give us unspeakable satisfaction to be fully assured of this. But we cannot look over the topics which occupied a large portion of the time and the thoughts of our friends last week, without becoming involuntarily conscious of a gloomy foreboding that, for the present at least, Congregationalism has missed its way.

As an illustration of our remarks we may refer to the series of resolutions proposed, and the discussion which ensued thereupon, regarding a Sustentation Fund—a scheme which, we are happy to say, elicited some spirited opposition, and was referred at last to the deliberations of county associations, that they may report their opinions upon it. What surprises us is that the conclusion of the meeting against it was not swift, decisive, final. "A fund in aid by which insufficient salaries may be augmented, with an ultimate view to a minimum of 150%," what is it in substance but a Congregational Ministers' Trade Union? Mind, we do not say, we do not even suggest, that the scale on which members of the denomination, as a rule, contribute of their temporal things to those who minister to them spiritual things indicates a high appreciation of religious instruction and worship. On the contrary, it is mean, niggardly, and, in many cases, palpably unjust. Nor are we at one in opinion with those who contend that the ministry of the Gospel should be in all cases an unpaid ministry. But this we say, that to insure to every pastor a minimum of 150% a-year must inevitably pave the way to the subversion, in spirit if not in form, of Independent principles, bring poor churches under bondage to the rich, necessitate a definition of the qualifications which, in a professional sense, are indispensable to the Christian ministry, encourage a sort of con-acre ecclesiastical system, put inefficiency on a par with efficiency, accumulate improper power and influence in the hands of some central dispensing body, and pauperise the spirit of the aided congregations. And all this—what for? To keep up the mischievous and unapostolical

notion that the ministry of the word is, under any circumstances, incompatible with a man's being engaged in secular employment. We heartily go with the Rev. Thos. Binney in the following pertinent and powerful remarks:—"He thought that they were not quite apostolical enough in their church government; that in many respects they did not carry their principles of independency far enough in one direction. Why should all these people in the villages have paid pastors?—why should every individual man in a village have a minister to be paid who was not attached to any work? Their Congregationalist principles made provision against that, for they believed that any number of men might meet together and edify one another, and he believed that if there was a little more of the idea that men who professed to be Congregationalists might, upon their own principles, meet together and edify one another, and not have the expense of supporting a paid minister who did nothing, they would be far more apostolical. Then, again, he would ask, why should those little societies be called and constituted independent churches? Why should they not be associated as branches of a central church? And why should they not call forth their educated laity; their men who could stand up at political meetings, at corporation meetings, and become common councillors and mayors, and who, if they would take the same talent and let it bear upon Christian work, might become local preachers, be the means of doing a great deal of good, and remove the necessity for a paid minister?"

Then, again, take the discussion on the Elementary Education Act. To the resolution submitted and passed we assent. It expresses views that we have long held and pleaded for; but did it not strike the framer of it, and ought it not to have struck the assembly before which it was laid for adoption, that it was mainly negative and critical on a question that, above most others, requires now from the Congregational Union a positive and practical treatment? The Act is passed. It embodies principles which, in our capacity as Nonconformists, we repudiate. But it will certainly be put in force, and its operation will tend to the obliteration of our religious, even more perhaps than our denominational, influence. What, then, is to be done? Can we not meet the emergency without committing ourselves to invariable antagonism—at least in rural places where the institutions of a school-board on liberal principles, or, indeed, on any principles, is found to be impossible? Our desire is to insure for children a religious education by the churches in connection with a secular education by the schoolmaster, aided or unaided, as the latter may be, by the State. We should have liked to hear the question discussed how far it is practicable to give expression to this desire by an organisation specially adapted to the purpose. What ought in future to be the methods of our Sunday Schools? What other machinery can be devised to supplement them? How may religious teaching be made attractive and instructive to the young? We are entering upon a new educational era. The public school will take the work of secular teaching clean out of our hands. Can we not, if we are in earnest, put a soul, a thoughtfulness, a method, a Christian kindness, into the most likely machinery we can devise, for breathing something of Christ's truth into the hearts of the poor children

in our respective neighbourhoods. It cannot, and ought not, be left with the minister. It would open a beautiful sphere for Christian womanhood. This is the side of the case which we think the Congregational Union should examine. It would bring out, in course of time, a rich, and, we may add, a genial illustration of its principles.

Observations of this character—and we are glad that our space precludes our adding to them—will doubtless be regarded by not a few as indicative of a carping spirit. We cannot help it—we do not mean it. What we really have at heart in the foregoing remarks, and in a multitude of thoughts which we cannot here set down in writing, is that the Union should busy itself more uniformly than it has done with things which might give a freer, truer, more energetic life to the denomination, and less to organisations and mechanisms which come in to supply the absence of that life. We don't want handsome crutches—we want unrestricted living power.

ECCELESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE Church Congress at Southampton has not attracted much notice. Possibly the war news has had something to do with the obscurity to which it has been consigned, but, as far as we can judge, its proceedings have received a fair amount of attention. It was not so well attended as some previous Congresses, and, although the Bishop of Winchester did his best to enliven the proceedings, those proceedings were not remarkably lively. What was most conspicuous, as a characteristic, was the amiable nature of the speeches proceeding from the various representatives of various Church parties. A friend who was present throughout the meetings, tells us that, in this respect, the only word which would rightly describe the language used is the word "oily." There was an evident anxiety to keep down matters of difference, and to exaggerate matters of agreement. To a certain degree this succeeded, or, rather, appeared to succeed, but the appearance was utterly unreal. There was a discussion upon Christian union with Non-conformists, but it was worth nothing. More was said about Christian union in the Church itself—as though that could by any possibility be accomplished. The High and Broad Churchmen are feverish in their anxiety to unite with Greeks, though by no means desirous to unite with the Evangelicals of their own denomination, or the Protestant Dissenters at home. There was a working-class meeting attached to the Congress, at which working men were not desired to speak—indeed, we believe, they held another meeting, on the same evening, in another place. We are told that the Congress meeting was a failure, and, on the whole, the Congress itself seems to have been the same. What strikes us as very noticeable is the want of open speaking. Churchmen here meet upon a common platform, and in this case under the presidency of an ecclesiastic who likes to make things pleasant. His governance rubs down all corners, and, perhaps, extinguishes all sincerity. Be that as it may, the Bishop of Winchester proved himself to be a very pleasant chairman, and, as he advised everybody, refrained from offensive allusions. The advice seems to have told beyond its intent, for the Congress, as we read its proceedings, was tame to the last degree. Of all the meetings of the kind that have been held this has been the weakest, and it may suggest whether it is worth while to hold another. The Southampton meeting will certainly do nothing to promote unity, or, as far as we can judge, to promote Christianity. It has been a failure.

The Bishop of Exeter is looking towards the Church of the Future. It is marvellous and astonishing that at this period, it should be actually necessary for a Christian bishop to suggest, as a novelty, that "laymen" should be employed in Christian work. The Bishop of Exeter, however, considers it to be necessary to do this in his own diocese. In a circular to his clergy, just issued, he suggests, according to an account that we have read, that "lay assistants in parochial work under the clergyman shall be engaged, including gentlemen, farmers, shopkeepers, artisans, or the like. The duties of these lay assistants are,—To take a leading part in the Sunday-school and the night-school, to visit the sick, and keep the clergyman thoroughly informed of their state; to hold services in school-rooms, cottages, or any other buildings not consecrated for public worship; to read printed or written sermons which the clergyman had approved, and to

explain passages of Scripture selected or approved by the clergyman. Under certain conditions, which he lays down, his lordship is prepared to grant licences to lay assistants. A candidate is to be a communicant, a regular attendant at church, and selected or approved by the incumbent of his parish. No licence will be given except after an interview with the bishop. His lordship warns the clergy that before long some distinct control over the services of the Church will be given either to the parishioners, as a body, or to some council that shall represent them." Judging from the language of this circular, there appears to be a wonderful difference between "Churchmen" and Dissenters. Is it possible that nobody, under Episcopalianism, is to visit the sick without informing the clergyman of their state, to hold a service or even "to read" without the permission of the same individual? Then, really, must not an Episcopalian layman—as he is called—read, or do anything else without a "license" and "an interview with the bishop?" Will the utmost capacity of the most cultured or the most uncultured layman be able to distinguish any difference between himself and a bishop? Will he be able to say why a bishop should give him a license, rather than that he should give the bishop a license? What is a bishop more than a layman? At present, according to law, the layman has the advantage of the bishop, for he nominates him and pays him.

It is singular that a portion of the public press should congratulate the Ecclesiastical Commissioners upon passing schemes by which the Deans and Chapters of Norwich, Westminster, and Ely have, in consideration of money payments, transferred their property to the Commissioners. Our usually astute contemporary, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, says upon this:—

The effect of this transfer is that the members of these caputular bodies are now the stipendiaries of the State, and receive a fixed annual income in lieu of one liable to constant fluctuation from the unjust system of fines. This branch of the Commissioners' work has been so uniformly successful that we regret that the transfers have not been made (now that the measure is no longer tentative) in all cases compulsory. A large proportion of the Cathedral Chapters still have control over the caputular property, and it is a question which suffers most, the Church or the State, by their wasteful mismanagement.

If the *Pall Mall* had known just a little more it would have saved itself from congratulations. The process which has just been accomplished, is simply a stage of what is ludicrously denominated Church Reform. As in the case of the bishops, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners will have this property transferred to them at an enormous expense, survey it at an enormous expense, and then re-transfer it at a third enormous expense. Before long our wonderfully innocent contemporary will find that all the estates it has referred to have been sent back to the deaneries and chapters. What else would the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have had to do if they had not done this? and how could they mount up their legal and surveying expenses excepting upon such an admirable system?

We read, with unfeigned surprise and astonishment, the following letter in the *Guardian* of last week respecting confidential sermons:—

Sir,—I was only ordained on Sunday, the 25th inst., but this morning I received a paper marked at the top "Private and confidential," offering to supply me with MSS. sermons for so much a quarter. It professed to come from an M.A. Cambridge. Now, I do think this is very sad. Is a young man ordained to a high and holy work that he may lazily pay 13s. 6d. a quarter to have a great part of his work done for him? Should such a temptation be placed in his way? Many might be tempted to try them for occasional use, and gradually slide into writing no sermons at all. The result of this may be imagined. No reading would be necessary, and none would be done. Everything would be perfunctory and lifeless. I would not deny that in some exceptional cases it might be needful to borrow a sermon, but this may generally be done through a friend, and it is not likely to become a fixed habit; indeed, it could not. I think that an exposure in your journal may check in some degree this growing evil.

A friend of ours went the other day to hear a celebrated preacher, not a hundred miles from Bury St. Edmunds. The preacher was extolled throughout the neighbourhood, and everybody said what an able man he must be, who, with other duties, could preach such splendid sermons as he preached. Our friend went to hear this celebrated preacher, and saw and heard him read, word for word, from a manuscript copy, one of the Rev. Alexander MacLaren's Manchester sermons. We give the anecdote to the *Guardian* correspondent. What he has met is really not remarkable, but quite the contrary.

THE CHURCH CONGRESS AT SOUTHAMPTON.

At the meeting on Wednesday, the subject fixed for consideration was, "The Duty of the Church in the Present Phase of the Education Question as

Affected by the Bill on Elementary Education." On this Mr. A. J. Beresford Hope, M.P., the Rev. B. Morgan Cowie, B.D., and the Rev. A. R. Ashwell, Principal of the Durham Training College, addressed the Congress. Mr. BERESFORD HOPE argued that the first result of the new condition of things, so far as the masters and mistresses are concerned, would be that a code of class feeling would be developed, and that the clergy would not be able to rely on them in virtue of their office as Church teachers. The clergy must teach religion themselves. By this means they would best fabricate the missing link between themselves and the minds and hearts of the English people, the loss of which was so often lamented. But the clergy would always find efficient lay help. Tact, good humour, and good sense, far more than crystallised organisation, would, after all, be the preservative and curative elements in the system. With regard to the Time-table Conscience Clause, the speaker said:—

I have presented to you the professional school teacher as he or she will be moulded by events. Let us, then, take one of those teachers—an average person, one out of a thousand, honest and steady, but neither a hero nor a missionary—and let us suppose that he or she contracts an engagement at a distinctive Church school, with no particular intention of continuing there in case a more remunerative engagement should present itself elsewhere—probably at a rate-aided school; suppose, further, that the clergyman is apt to devolve the religious instruction on his teachers, and only puts in an occasional appearance at school; it will be obvious that all the teacher's worldly interest will be in the direction of making the religious lesson as colourless, if not as short, as possible, and thereby earning a character with future employers for Churchmanship of the most undogmatic description. But, with a time-table which compels the teacher to devote a given time at a given hour to religious teaching and nothing else, the length of the lesson is secured, and its importance, compared with other work, guaranteed; while the clergyman will always know when to come down and exercise a wholesome supervision. Besides, as every well-regulated school must at all times have had a time-table for its own use, the injury is, after all, not so great of making that compulsory by law which was already compulsory by common-sense. I have been hitherto reviewing the position of the clergy in Church schools.

In regard to rate-aided schools, in too many cases, however virtuous and personally pious the master or mistress might be, the religion which stress of circumstances would drive them to expound would be a creedless system of vague philanthropy, illustrated by detached tales, garbled rather than drawn from Gospel history. No clergyman who believed in his mission could stand by and not endeavour to find some remedy for this condition of things. How he was to do so Mr. Hope did not pretend to say; but he was certain that he must seek it in the same expedients of personal exertion and invited help which would enable him to regulate the religious instruction wherever the school continued to be directed by Church influence. Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE followed Mr. Hope, and defended the bill, inasmuch as it afforded the opportunity for religious instruction, whilst it avoided denominationalism. The great point was for the clergy to reflect that they were not only ministers of Christ, but of the National Church. EARL BEAUCHAMP said the clergy had always done that. The clause in question would not be interpreted by Mr. Cowper-Temple, and if they were not to have denominational distinctive teaching out of the Bible, it would be "keeping the word of promise to the ear, and breaking it to the hope." Under the former conscience clauses the teacher was forbidden, but now the responsibility rested on the parents of withdrawing their children. The Bishop (Suffragan) of Dover believed the religious difficulty was a mere ghost, and all that was now needed was that the Church should do her duty. The PRESIDENT said they would now lose the advantage of Government certificates to teachers. Could not a system of Church certificates be adopted? Canon MELVILLE said the training colleges were the key of the position, and urged the duty of supporting them.

The next subject was "Lay Representation in Church Synods and Conferences," on which papers were read by the Bishop of Salisbury, Rev. A. Wayland Joyce, and Archdeacon Utterson. The BISHOP adduced Scriptural evidence in favour of the employment of laymen in the work of the Church, and extended the evidence from the Bible to early Christian history in proof that the assent of the whole diffused Church was necessary in early times to give authority even to the action of Ecumenical Councils. He referred the broad separation between the clergy and the laity to the connection of the Church with the State. The idea of separation between the powers of the Church and the functions of the clergy had given rise to our modern difficulties. Mr. JOYCE declared that the introduction of laymen into synods would be a revolution contrary to Scripture, antiquity, and history, while he maintained that the ultimate rule of faith lay in her Provincial Synods. Archdeacon UTTERTON asserted that the very fortunes of the Church depended on the welcome she gave to the laity. The great danger of the Church was the isolation of the bishops from the clergy and the clergy from the laity. Weakness, lassitude, and pecuniary poverty have all flowed from this cause. The Rev. B. COMPTON maintained lay representation in its widest sense, not as a question of right, but as a necessity of the Church providentially forced upon her by her Great Head. The discussion was continued by Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE, who made some remarks on the Parochial Councils Bill of Lord Sandon, and its probable effects, should it pass into law next session.

Another subject for this day was the discussion, at an evening sitting, of "The Organisation of Charitable

Relief in its Relation to Church Work." It was opened up in a paper by the Rev. JAMES AMOS, who advocated the adoption of systematic efforts to give relief to the poor by a system of affiliated committees, but gave a warning against spreading relief over too wide a surface so as to be insufficient everywhere. Mr. ALSAGER HILL sketched the history of charitable relief from the dissolution of the monasteries, when the distribution of relief passed for the first time out of the hands of the Church. Since then it had been a voluntary work alone and not a duty. The clergy have, however, become in our days the great almoners of benevolence. The existing system had not, however, succeeded. He imputed much of the pauperism of London to this cause. The attention of individuals has been lost in the delegation of relief to the clergy, and other evils had, in his opinion, followed. Some warm dissent was caused by the earnestness with which the speaker denounced this action of the Church. He suggested that for the future relief should be taken from the clergy and entrusted to a secular organisation, with the exception of sick cases and cases requiring rather moral than material relief. The Rev. Prebendary THOROLD stated the alarming increase of pauperism in London, and characterised it as a vicious moral habit. He feared that the evil was, in the growth, like a moral dry rot spreading through the people. He ascribed it to the following causes:—The irregularity and imperfection of the poor-law: the large number of existing small charities and doles; the excess of liberality in many cases; the need of more exact principles in regard to almsgiving, and the want of organised co-operation. Mr. E. W. HOLLAND followed Mr. Hill in his views about clerical almsgiving, and dwelt upon the want of time experienced by the clergy among large populations. The Rev. E. BAYLEY offered a protest on the part of the clergy against the proposition of taking the distribution of charitable funds out of their hands, and explained the mode both in which the trust was put into their hands and how it was executed. Some other speakers followed before the meeting was brought to a conclusion.

On Thursday there was an animated and exciting discussion on the "Evidences of Christian Antiquity as to Ritual." Archdeacon FREEMAN read a paper in favour of Ritualism which provoked strong expressions of dissent. He advocated vestments, incense, and all the other peculiarities of his school, and did not scruple to assert that a right ritual was as necessary to salvation as a right doctrine. The PRESIDENT (the Bishop of Winchester), made an earnest appeal for mutual forbearance, urging speakers to avoid any strong expressions, which would only irritate and provoke reprisals. This appeal was successful, and great decorum consequently marked the rest of the morning. Mr. JOHN ELLIOTT read a paper, in which he urged—from the total absence of all ecclesiastical peculiarities in the ancient buildings, and the adoption of the Basilica as their type—for the absence of those peculiar doctrines which the arrangements of Tractarian churches are meant to subserve. Mr. Elliott was followed by Mr. PERRY, whose paper was very able and well written, and yet somewhat tame, from the cautious moderation of the ground he took. The Rev. Dr. HARRISON read a learned paper on the ritual questions connected with the Lord's Supper, in which he boldly controverted the most cherished notions of the sacerdotal school. A vigorous address from the Rev. J. C. RYLE opened the real discussion of the day, in which he maintained the supremacy of Scripture over antiquity, and spoke openly of the mode in which Ritualism was alienating the affections of the people from the Church. Then followed speaker after speaker, the number applying for permission to speak being so great that the allotted time was reduced from ten minutes to five for each speaker. Dr. Littledale, the Rev. Mr. Lowder, Mr. Mayow, and Mr. Rogers were the principal advocates on the Ritualistic side; the Rev. Messrs. Billing, Goe, and Thynne the most effective of the Protestant advocates.

In the afternoon the principal subject for discussion was, "The Effect of the Increased Cultivation of Physical Science and of Literary and other Research on Biblical Criticism and Belief," which was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Hannah, late Principal of Trinity College, Glenalmond; the Rev. E. Garbett, M.A., incumbent of Christ Church, Surbiton; and the Rev. J. H. Titcomb, M.A., vicar of St. Stephen's, South Lambeth. The question was spoken to by Mr. George Grove, of the Crystal Palace Company; and Mr. W. S. Vaux, of the British Museum. In the evening the Congress met in the Lecture-hall of the Hartley Institution, when the subject discussed was, "The Duty of the Church as to Middle-class Education and the Endowed Schools Act." In the Congress hall in the evening there was a working-man's conference, presided over by the Bishop of Winchester.

The concluding meeting was held on Friday. The whole of the afternoon was occupied with a discussion on the practical steps to be taken to secure the union of Nonconformists with the Established Church. In his paper entitled, "What Practical Steps may be taken towards the reunion of Nonconformists to the Church?" the Rev. P. G. MEDD said that a frank recognition of Dissenters as our brethren was the most practical of all steps for the promotion of union. On the strictest ecclesiastical principles this position is true, for every baptized person must be recognised as a member of the Church. The bodies in their corporate being are to be distinguished as human and of human origin from the individual units, as children of one Church, flesh of our flesh. Whatever may have caused the first separation is not to be considered, but the practical position of the men of the present, and God's evident blessing upon

them. We have need to watch against assumption in ourselves, as well as against schism in others. Blunders of policy, errors of temper, and neglect on the Church's side, have done great harm. How different would have been the result had she acted wisely towards that great man John Wesley? The duty of the Church is to treat the men with patience and love, to do all we can to heal our own divisions, and to pray for unity from God. As to policy, she ought to give to no Christian any ground for separation, especially those lower occasions, which are really most influential. Uniformity has been the death of unity, and never can be really a security. A permanent diaconate, and an explanation of all passages in the Liturgy which give offence, were necessary. A bold spirit of adaptation to the practical wants of the day, affords the only hope of better things in future.

The Rev. J. C. RYLE (we are following an excellent sketch of the Congress given in the *Record*) advocated concession as the only means of reconciling orthodox Dissenters—the Church must make the first move. But concede what we may, not one jot of doctrine must be conceded. A creedless Church is the baseless vision of a dream. The Church should offer increased facilities to Nonconformist ministers to become clergymen. At present the door is closed against them. The two years' silence is unreasonable to men of ability and experience. Then the Church should reform the Act of Uniformity. We want not to discard the Liturgy, but more liberty in the use of it, and of this he gave several instances, such as the case of the Athanasian Creed, the Baptismal Service, and the length of the present Morning Service. Then there should be systematic plans for utilising the zeal of the laity. Enthusiasm should be used, not stifled. Lastly, the Church must cultivate habits of kindness in speech and manner towards Dissenting clergymen. This was often forgotten. There should be no hard language, there should be occasional meeting with Dissenters. We should acknowledge the good work done by Dissenters freely and generously. Their feelings should also be respected. The prospects of the future were not hopeful, but would be much brighter if we had union among ourselves. For this end we all need to work and pray.

The Rev. J. MOONHOUSE referred to some hopeful signs, though he feared the time for reunion was not yet arrived. There was more ground for hope in the growth of an inward feeling than in any outward bargaining. The perfecting of the Church herself must precede her extension. The organisation of the Church he described as static and dynamical. Of the static organs, the Lord's Supper is the illustration; of the dynamical, its form of Government and worship. It is in the last that changes were mostly wanted. Convocation itself was ineffective and impractical. It should be made truly representative. Its reform should be extensive. The Church must be made the organ of the nation's spiritual life. He then rapidly sketched a scheme of reform in Convocation. A revised Convocation might be able to deal with patronage, and lead to a revision of the relation between the Church and the State. The mode of appointing bishops and selecting parochial clergymen needed radical change. Beyond this, he pleaded for larger powers in matters of faith for the revised Convocation of the future. The Rev. G. BONY supported the suggestions of Mr. Ryle with all his heart, adding some warm expressions of respect to that well-known champion of the truth. He divided Dissenters into four classes:—1. Those who are wrong on fundamental doctrine, as the Socinians, with whom there could be no union. 2. The Congregationalists. 3. The Methodists. 4. The Plymouth Brethren; and in his best strain—and his best strain has great merit both for fervency of delivery and eloquence of language—pleaded for every possible effort to meet their difficulties and wants. He spoke well of their need of sympathy and the special necessities which kept them aloof from the Church. The Bishop of PETERBOROUGH then rose, and proceeded to remark on Mr. Ryle's plea for greater freedom of action. He made much of the diversities of opinion likely to arise in congregations, and employed his great ability in discouraging the effort at conciliation, for which other speakers had so eloquently pleaded. An eloquent address from Bishop PARRY followed, in which he spoke in a very devout strain of the higher joys of the future world, where all variations and all separations of the people of God from each other would end for ever. A few other speakers, each limited to five minutes, followed.

A soirée in the evening brought the Congress to a close. Nottingham will be the next place of meeting.

Archdeacon Denison has had a relapse, and but slight hopes are entertained of his recovery.

THE IRISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—The patent granting the charter of incorporation to the Church of Ireland to the new representative body passed the Great Seal on Tuesday. The Convention was to meet again yesterday, when, after opening religious exercises, business would begin in the Metropolitan Hall. It is expected that the most earnest discussions will arise on the revision of the Prayer-book and the propriety of commutation of incomes. The High and the Low Church parties, will, it is thought, come immediately into fierce collision.

NON-SECTARIAN EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—The movement in favour of united non-sectarian education in Ireland is gaining ground in the northern counties. A meeting has just been held at Omagh for the purpose of forming a branch of the Irish National Education League. The attendance was both numerous and influential, and included clergymen of the various Protestant denominations. One of the principal resolutions was proposed by the Very Rev. the Dean of Clon-

fert. The resolution was as follows:—"That this meeting enters its earnest protest against the recommendations of a majority of the late Royal Commissioners on Primary Education, in favour of the recognition by the State of separate schools for particular religious denominations, believing that such a course would lead to injurious rivalry in the establishment of schools, and a baneful separation of the youth of Ireland, and tend to deteriorate the education of the country." In proposing this resolution, Dean Byrne said it was well known that the National Education system at first and for many years afterwards was opposed by the clergy and laity of the Established Church. Now, the great majority of the clergy and the bulk of the people were in favour of that system, and opposed to the system of denominational education. The Presbyterian Church had always been the most earnest supporter of national education. The knowledge which the English people have of Irish questions is generally superficial, and so the present cry is, "Give everything to the Roman Catholics, as the Protestants were so intolerant." Dr. Robinson, in seconding a resolution declaring approval of the objects of the League, said he believed the Established Church made a great mistake in not accepting national education from one of the best friends it ever had, the late Lord Derby. The Church of Rome would make a still greater mistake did they attempt to destroy a system which, upon the whole, had worked well; which had gained the reluctant consent of the Protestant community, was viewed with favour by the Roman Catholic laity, and had received the support of every every enlightened British statesman, Conservative and Liberal.

Religious and Denominational News.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

AUTUMNAL MEETING AT PLYMOUTH.

In our last we gave a sketch of the proceedings of the Congregational Union at Plymouth on Tuesday, October 11th, to the close of the Chairman's (Rev. J. C. Harrison's) address; the remaining report of the day's sitting being contained in a parcel which did not reach us before going to press.

ADDRESS ON PERSONAL RELIGION.

The Rev. H. SIMON, of London, followed with an interesting and thoughtful address on "Personal religion, in relation to the individual life, domestic life, business life, and national life." The speaker maintained that individual interests were identical with universal interests, and he thought it was a question whether the true ideal of existence in all its fulness and beauty for the individual would be attained a moment earlier than the ideal for the universal would be reached.

In proportion as the individual was contributing to the universal well-being was he securing his own. With regard to personal religion in relation to the individual life, it was manifest that there could be no deeply religious life apart from concern for the well-being of the entire society of which the individual was but a unit. As long as the religious life expressed itself in mere self-concern, to escape the penalty of wrong-doing and to secure happiness, it was in the very first stage of existence—unintelligent, weak, and half-selfish. To cultivate this condition as the end of thought and endeavour, would be to produce a form of selfishness which would be the more hideous because spiritual. That which was appropriate enough for the infant would be intolerable in the man. The real feebleness of personal piety in multitudes of professedly Christian people resulted from an unwise care of self. They had become spiritual epicures; they had gloried in the cross of Christ as a grand theatrical display of justice and mercy, and had selfishly watched the Lamb of God, not bearing away the sin, but the consequences of the sin of the world. Into the deeper mystery they had not cared to enter. As long as the spiritual life concerned itself supremely with itself it would be stunted, and feeble, and fruitless. Undue self-concern was the shutting out of light and air, and the forbidding of expansion. The healthy instincts of this life, such as hunger and thirst for truth, might be depended upon as sufficient to regulate a wise self-concern. The self-willed man could never be spiritual. Speaking of personal religion as it related to domestic life, the rev. gentleman observed, that the Englishman's home was his castle. These homes were the real fortresses of our land. Our nation would be invincible in proportion as they were physically intellectually, morally, and spiritually strong: weakness in the home life meant national weakness and decay. Just as the individual life decided the home life, so the home life decided the national life and character. The nation recruited itself at home. Home was the natural nursery for ideas and sentiments, and feelings which were to find wider scope and fuller development in national character, and thought, and action. If ideas were not born at home they were brought home to be nursed, and that the home life of our country ought to be deeply religious for its own sake and for the sake of the manifold interests which were dependent upon it, admitted of no manner of doubt. The relation of the personal life to this home life was most vital. The parents were largely responsible for the tone and form of the family life. In the children would be reproduced not simply the physical and intellectual, but also the moral characteristics or tendencies of the parents. Out of the religious life of the parent should come the sim-

pliancy and purity and holy blessedness of it; then, too, out of this life, which had for its basis truth, and whose life-pulses were living convictions, should grow a natural course of moral and spiritual instruction. The father who cared for his family would not entrust this work to schoolmaster or Sunday-school teacher or pastor. It was his work, and he would see that his children be fairly started in the world with solid convictions of their duty to God and men.

Mr. Simon then dwelt upon personal religion in relation to business life—

Many worthy men said, "Business is business," and that formula was supposed to be a kind of sufficient reason for any cruel pressure or unscrupulous dealing that circumstances might seem to require. That a man professed to be a Christian was no reason in the business world why he should be trusted; it was in many quarters a half-reason why a better inquiry should be made concerning his antecedents. (Laughter.) The spirit of Christ ought to underlie the whole business life; the business life ought to be instinct with religious life, and one could not imagine anything more beautiful than a business world permeated with the light of truth and righteousness. (Applause.) Thank God, there were multitudes of honourable men in the business world, and they were its salvation, but notwithstanding this, many of the revelations which the last few years had brought to light had been anything but consoling and reassuring. The enormous extent to which the puffing system had grown implied a vast system of adulteration and roguery. The bitter disputes which arose between masters and men—the grasping of the one and the grasping of the other—were deeply saddening. The presence amongst us of fraudulent speculators, and the cry for cheapness, were not comforting symptoms.

The speaker, in conclusion, referred to personal religion in relation to national life.

The Rev. URIAH THOMAS (of Bristol) proposed the following resolution:—

That this assembly, earnestly desiring the growth of pure, practical religion in the Congregational churches of the land, and convinced that the power of those churches to serve Christ must ever be in the proportion in which they maintain within their respective fellowships a vigorous Christian life, asks the Rev. H. Simon to place the manuscript of his address in the hands of the Committee of the Union, to be by them printed and circulated in the churches, in the hope that, by the blessing of God, it may prove the means of spiritual quickening.

In doing so he amplified some of the thoughts thrown out in the paper. The resolution was seconded by Mr. HARTLEY, of London, and carried with enthusiasm. The Rev. H. SIMON expressed his willingness and pleasure in handing over the manuscript of his address to the committee.

RELIGIOUS LIFE IN OUR CHURCHES.

The Rev. J. HUTCHESON, of Ashton-under-Lyne, followed by reading a paper on the "Religious Life in our Churches as affected by the leading forms of thought, &c., in the present day." The rev. gentleman, in the course of his paper, said that there were dangers to the life of God in our souls from the scepticisms of the age, from its audacious speculation and bold assertions, its scornful rejection of the supernatural, its reckless and dreary materialism, and he would not for the moment underrate those dangers, but to his mind they were not half so perilous as those that spring from the cursed spirit of self-gratification that impregnated the very air we breathe. The result undoubtedly was that in multitudes of instances the religious life lacked decision, lacked strength and endurance. In the literature of the day, much of which was marked both by beauty and power, men's moral perceptions were sadly confused. There was a remarkable amount of intellectual subtlety and literary skill that resulted only in perplexing moral convictions. Another peril to our religious life was to be found in the opinion so commonly circulated in the literature of our age, that conscience had no unerring authority in the soul. This in fact was only a polite way of getting rid of conscience altogether. There was a baleful infection in the atmosphere of our time that, if not neutralised, will blight the beauty and sap the strength of our religious life. The outcry also against all dogma, which is so loud and common in our time, told disastrously on our religious life. There never was and there never could be a religious life of much strength and power, unless there was a clear and firm hold of truth—truth well defined and boldly declared. Our religious life appeared to him to have lost something of its depth and intensity, but to have gained in breadth and geniality.

A long discussion followed the reading of the paper.—The Rev. S. E. DODGE thought these ministers had not grappled with the sin of covetousness as they should have. They allowed the post-laureate to write of the narrowing lust of gold, but in the pulpit the subject was evaded.—Dr. GORDON, although believing that things were not so bad as the paper represented, said the matter was certainly worthy of serious consideration. The younger ministry, he was afraid, were liable to lapse into rationalistic views, and were ignorant of those good old doctrines preached and expounded by their Puritan forefathers.—The Rev. J. H. WILSON believed that if they set themselves earnestly to pray for the Holy Spirit, with their organisation, the soundness of principle and the freedom of mind which characterised their denomination, they would soon be a power to bless the world.—The Rev. T. BINNEY proposed that Mr. Hutcheson's paper should be printed and circulated, like Mr. Simon's.—The SECRETARY (the Rev. A. HANNAY) explained that Mr. Simon's paper was prepared at the request of the committee, as a message from this Union upon the falling away of the Church from Puritanical maxims and manners, whilst Mr. Hutcheson's was intended only to provoke discussion, and would be published with other papers in the Year-book. After this explanation Mr. Binney withdrew his resolution. The Rev. T.

SUFFIELD, of Woolwich, believed that Congregationalism had lost no degree of vitality and power, and was now exercising on the world a larger influence than it ever did before. (Hear, hear.) Not only was this influence felt in its doctrine and policy, but in the life of its people. The wondrous change in the Irish Church was due to this influence, and was a matter of which they might be glad and Christianly proud. The Rev. S. HENDRICH felt that it was of less consequence whether they were better or worse than their fathers; far more important was it to inquire whether they could advance. The Rev. G. M. MURPHY deprecated the fashion that depreciated the present for the glorification of the past, and urged that facts showed a great improvement had been made upon the days of their fathers. Prayer-meetings were well attended, there was an atmosphere of spiritual industry on every hand. A hundred years ago there was no missionary enterprise, no Sunday-schools, no Bible enterprise, and the endeavour to frustrate wide-spread intemperance was the product of much later years. The danger of depreciating the present was that, as they spoke of themselves, so they would find themselves; and, if they believed they had no vital power, they would soon find that they were weak. The Rev. E. T. EGG had hoped that the author of the paper would have laid down something more definite in relation to various amusements which it was doubtful whether members could join in or not. Card-playing was rightly objected to, but what were they to say to those who said that they could go to the opera or to the theatre and learn good? Mr. JURE would like to know what good? Mr. Egg said the theatre was not sinful in itself, but in its accessories. ("Yes, yes," "No, no.") The Rev. J. C. ROGERS pointed out that they must be prepared to take some definite and distinct ground in relation to these matters, and to give distinct and intelligible reasons for the position taken. They should not be content with acting in accordance with their fathers, or be betrayed into acting in direct opposition to them. He asserted that the influence of Charles Dickens in these matters had been pernicious in the highest degree—"Hear, hear," and "No, no"—for the tendency of a great deal of his writing was to show that enjoyment was one of the grand ends of this life. He did not underrate Dickens, or the good he did in certain quarters; but, as a religious teacher, his influence was anything but satisfactory or beneficial. (Hear, hear.) The regulation of enjoyment should, he thought, form no part of church discipline, believing that protests against it would increase in weight in consequence; but ministers from the pulpits should descend to details in such matters, exhorting the carrying out of the rest in keeping with the Christian life. He moved that the address of Mr. Simon, and the paper of Mr. Hutcheson, be referred to the Reference Committee to say what should be done with them. This was seconded by Dr. STOUTON, but, Mr. Hutcheson declining to have his paper published in the way suggested, the motion was withdrawn, and the session was brought to a close.

The visitors then adjourned to the Duke of Cornwall Hotel, and to the Ebenezer and Union Chapel schoolrooms, where dinner was provided them free of cost. Afterwards they enjoyed the trip to the Breakwater, and up the Hamoaze to Saltash, arranged by the local committee.

STATE OF RELIGION ON THE CONTINENT.

The Sherwell Chapel in the evening was crowded by an audience assembled to hear an address from Pasteur De Faye, Brussels, "on the State of Religion on the Continent, as Affected by Recent and Impending Changes." The Rev. J. O. HARRISON presided, and with very much pleasure introduced to the meeting their friend and brother.

Pasteur DE FAYE then proceeded with an address which occupied upwards of an hour in delivery, and was composed for the most part of admirable quotations from a vast number of writers and speakers to illustrate his subject. It referred at some length to recent events in connection with the Papacy, which he thought might still survive a certain time, in spite of (or precisely because of) the fall of the Pope's temporal power. Gallicanism was not yet dead; Mahomedanism still lingered. "We have seen that Paganism survived the attacks of philosophy," says Professor Laurent; it even survived the rise of Christianity after it was really dead. We have seen political societies, without any principle of life, vegetate during a thousand years—for instance, the Low Empire. Corpses with an appearance of life waiting till God bury them. . . . Catholicism is come to that pass. He concluded by saying:—

To work, then! Now is the favourable time to come to the rescue of those that perish. Brussels (to speak but of one city) is full of strangers, of wounded men from the battle-fields. In fact, the whole of Belgium has become a city of refuge for those who have been able to extricate themselves from the iron circle of war. Within the last two months the number of Bibles and tracts sent from our depot into Germany, as well as the distributions made to strangers within the capital, has exceeded the numbers of a whole year in ordinary times. Two out of our twenty pastors have evangelised the wounded on their passage along the German frontier. A third is at this moment employed in the ambulances in the Rhenish towns. Is it our little Belgian Church which has thus thrust itself into this prominent place, between France and Germany? No. Religious life, under the form of publications, cannot at present come from Paris. Unhappy Paris, with its noble tract society, Bible society, evangelical society, missionary society, &c., is gagged, and we are the first who suffer from this standstill. We are deprived of our right hand. Germany is calling to us to send evangelists to the French prisoners of war who crowd her fortresses. But where are our means of helping? . . . "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?"

I know that in religious matters, or rather where the Holy Spirit is at work, the account is not made up of figures. In 1836, General Changarnier, surrounded by the enemy, drew up his battalion in a square, and merely said to them, "They are six thousand; you are three hundred. You see that the numbers are equal"—and the Arabs were dispersed. We repeat, "The numbers are equal," although we are very far from being in Belgium three hundred evangelists against more than four millions of Arabs. What then? With a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ crucified, we are more than the whole world! Forward, then!

The Rev. J. SMITH (of Sheffield), with a few pertinent remarks, moved:—

That the Union cordially welcomes to its assemblies Pasteur De Faye, of Brussels; that it recognises with gratitude the good service rendered to the cause of Christian truth and vital religion by the Evangelical churches of the Continent of Europe; that it sympathises with the ministers and members of those churches in the hardships to which their fidelity has exposed them, and especially with those who have been called to suffer in consequence of the present war; that it cherishes the hope that the political changes which have lately taken place, or which are imminent, will create new facilities for the preaching of the Gospel and the formation of free Christian Churches; and it commends the work of Continental evangelisation to the prayerful sympathy and liberality of the Congregational churches of England.

The Rev. J. SHEDLOCK, in seconding the resolution, said that there were forty-four Independent churches in France, but they were very poor. If they had been strengthened by their brethren in England they would have done much better service, and it was hoped that in future assistance would be given to them. Up to 1849, they were tolerated, they were not secured by any law, but they continued to bear their testimony for the truth and sound ecclesiastical principles. The people at last began to see through Romanism, until there were millions who would scout the idea of belonging to the Church of Rome. Yet when the agonies of death were upon them, very few ventured to quit the world without the benefit of clergy. Such was the present state of things in France. In Italy, too, a great change had taken place, until it was difficult to believe that it was the same country as formerly.

The Rev. BARON-HART next addressed the meeting in support of the resolution, and gave some account of the services held in Paris at the Congregational Chapel in the Rue Royale. He said that he had hoped to attend this year a synod of the forty-four Congregationalist churches in France; but owing to the war, that synod would not be held. He commended France in her present calamity to the sympathy and prayers of the Union. It grieved him to the quick to think that his English brethren were almost all Prussians, and he could not understand it. Mr. Hart then described the setting forth of an ambulance from Paris to the Luxembourg frontier, accompanied by M. Theodore Monod, as chaplain, and commended that work of Christian charity to the prayers and assistance of the churches.

A hymn was then sung, the Chairman pronounced the benediction, and the meeting separated.

In the evening a sermon to young men was preached in Union Chapel by the Rev. W. M. STATHAM, of Hull; and the Rev. W. ROBERTS, of Holloway, preached at Princes-street Chapel, Devonport.

The session was resumed on Wednesday morning in the Sherwell-street Chapel. It was preceded by a prayer-meeting, at nine o'clock, the special subject of which was the state of the country in regard to religion. The Rev. D. HEWITT, of Exeter, presided, and delivered an address on the subject, and prayer was offered by the Revs. Messrs. Egg, Clark, and Murphy.

MISSIONARY WORK OF THE CHURCHES.

The business meeting began at ten o'clock, when the Rev. J. A. MACFADYEN, M.A., of Manchester, read an admirable paper on "The Missionary Work of the Churches," in the course of which he observed that the heathen world would never be converted, that Christendom, falsely so-called, would never enjoy a full baptism of the Holy Ghost, our own people would never be in reality what they had been so long in name—a Christian nation, by more subscriptions, by mere organisations, or more officialisms. The standing army was not sufficient for their wants; it was not large nor active enough to resist the mighty hosts by which they were invaded. Not until they had brought into the storehouse all the tithes that were due—tithes of service, tithes of sympathy, tithes of prayer as well as mere tithes of money—would the long divorce between the promise and the fulfilment be at an end; not till then would the blessing of God be married to the oblations of man; not till then would the Lord open the windows of heaven, and pour us out a blessing that there should not be room to receive it. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. BRYAN DALE (of Halifax) moved the following resolution:—

That the members of the Union recognise the solemn obligations under which they lie to seek the extension of Christ's spiritual kingdom; that, acknowledging with gratitude the considerable service which the Congregational churches of England have rendered to the cause of man's spiritual enlightenment in this land, in the colonies, and throughout the world, they yet feel that the resources of the churches for missionary ends, whether in the form of personal labour or of pecuniary contribution, have been very inadequately used; and they make their appeal to the churches anew and prayerfully to consider their duty in this matter.

In the course of his speech Mr. Dale said he believed all missionary societies in existence did not receive more than one million sterling a year, and when they remembered that the revenue of this country was something like seventy millions, what a small proportion that was in proportion to the vast amount of money spent in luxuries in this land. (Hear, hear.) It might be calculated, reckoning the London Missionary Society as their own organisation, that there was not quite a penny a week given by the members of their churches towards that great organisation.

Surely that was very small, and more ought to be done to induce the members of their churches to lay that matter more deeply to heart. He was firmly persuaded that they would never reach the evil until they adopted, both as ministers and people, the principle of systematic beneficence. (Hear, hear.) He thought they must do more in the way of union of churches; that a great deal of their weakness was due to isolation—(Hear, hear)—there were two churches in some places, and if those churches were more closely united together, he was quite sure a greater amount of work would be done for Christ's Gospel throughout the world. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. J. H. WILSON, of London, in seconding the resolution, said the three great principles of their Christian missions rested on central power, aggressive effort, and free productive results. They must never forget that the central power lay in the church, and they should never forget in carrying forward mission work in the world that the source of their power was in the church. He thought their home-mission work, prospering as it was just now—but nothing to what he hoped it would—was exciting a most favourable influence on their foreign missions, and there was no greater mistake could be made than to suppose that the more they did at home the less they would do for foreign effort. (Hear, hear.) He found from calculations prepared by one of the secretaries of the London Missionary Society that during the past ten years the counties in which the home-mission work had prospered the income for foreign-mission had increased as well.

The Rev. R. A. BERTRAM (Barnstable) appealed to the elder brethren to instruct the younger as to the means they could employ to increase the influence of the churches. They had often to deplore the scanty and unworthy attendances at missionary meetings, and what could they do to increase the interest in them? Of course the interest of novelty had passed away, and often when they had been at the trouble of getting a deputation down, the meeting disappointingly said, "We have heard all that before." If then these honoured brethren found it difficult to sustain the interest, how could the ministers in their different places expect to do so. He suggested that the county association should send down a deputation to confer at the meetings with the ministers on the subject. The circulation of Mr. Macfadyen's paper would do good, but he very much doubted that they should ever reach so high a standard as to be able to expel as members of their church all those who do not attend the missionary prayer-meeting.

The Rev. E. PAOUR did not think they gave the churches as much credit as they deserved for their large, hearty, and liberal support to the cause. (Hear, hear.) To further improve matters they must get rid of some of their habits, and the first was the dependence on deputations, or annual meetings and sermons. They must train their people to give upon principle, and not from mere excitement, not waiting till a stirring deputation went round, but day by day, week by week, to contribute to the home and foreign missions. It was possible to do this, and he had himself succeeded in accomplishing this object. He believed, too, it was possible to make the missionary prayer-meetings the most interesting meetings, and such meetings with him were twice as largely attended as the others of the week. The whole thing lay with the ministers, who should not look up tit-bits from the *Missionary Chronicle* just before a meeting, but really study the subject and present a fair outline of the history of some of the missions. It was marvellous what an interest this would excite. Ministers who came home dilapidated in health, and unaccustomed altogether to English audiences, were sent as deputations, and the congregations oftentimes were disappointed. It was time to dispense with deputations; the missionary, broken down in health, deserved to be better treated than to be sent on such work. If they could have always such deputations as Robert Moffat and John Williams, it would do very well.

Mr. DANIEL PRATT, who claimed a more prominent position for laymen in the proceedings of the Union, said that there were three ways by which their finances might be increased—the press, the pulpit, and the platform. With reference to the first, he said it was often very difficult for the press to drag out of the pigeon-holes of the London Missionary Society some of the most interesting information that could move the hearts of the people. More use should be made of the secular press in order to bring the subject before the general public. It should be made widely known that the Congregationalist body had 2,265 registered churches in the country, and that it was doing a great work in the evangelisation of the world. Then from the pulpit people should be taught to act on a higher principle, and to give more liberally than they did.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

THE SUSTENTATION FUND.

The Rev. A. HANNAY brought forward the following resolutions, passed at the conference held last month in London, in reference to this subject:—

1. That in the opinion of this Conference there is a large number of Congregational ministers for whose support, in temporal matters, even with the aid of existing funds, very inadequate provision is made.
2. That it is desirable, not more for the relief of those ministers whose circumstances are unduly straitened than for the removal of a hindrance to the usefulness of the churches, and of a reproach on the principles for which Congregationalists contend, that steps should as soon as possible be taken to provide a general fund in aid, by which insufficient salaries may be augmented, with an ultimate view to a minimum of 150*l.*
3. That the organisations which exist in different parts of the country, under the names of county associations and county unions, furnish examples of the way in which provision may be made for the augmentation of salaries without violence to any principle of Congregationalism, and that the

formation and control of a general fund in aid might safely be lodged in the hands of a body composed of the delegates of those associations and unions and of the representatives of such non-associated churches as may enter into the scheme.

4. That this conference, in transmitting the above resolutions to the committee of the Congregational Union, expresses the hope that they will take the earliest opportunity of obtaining the judgment of the Union upon them, and, if that judgment should be favourable, of bringing them before the county associations and unions.

With reference to the first resolution, he said that there were 500 Congregational ministers in England who were receiving less than 100*l.* a year, and another 500 who received between 100*l.* and 500*l.* a year. The proposed minimum of 150*l.* was that adopted by the Free Church of Scotland, the United Presbyterian Church, and the Wesleyan body. With regard to the second resolution, he said it was found that many of the counties were too poor to provide funds for supplementing ministers' salaries; and it was thought that a general fund would enable them to gather together the resources of the country so that the strength of the strong would go to help the weakness of the weak. The third resolution, he said, was framed with a view of averting the danger of centralisation. In the establishment of the proposed fund they would strengthen themselves as a denomination by applying the strength of the strong to the weakness of the weak. This was peculiarly a layman's question, and noticing the remark of Mr. Pratt, he explained the difficulty he experienced in getting laymen to pledge themselves to attend the Union and take part in the business, and that in making the arrangements for this meeting he had spent weeks in canvassing laymen without a single instance of success. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Hannay concluded by moving the following resolution:—

Resolved—That the assembly resolves with satisfaction the report of the Conference, held in London on September 20, to consider the question of a Sustentation Fund for the Congregational churches of England; that it recognises the inadequacy of the provision which is made for the temporal support of many of the ministers of those churches; that it approves the principle of a fund in aid to be administered by a body constituted of representatives of the county associations and non-associated contributing churches; and that it hereby instructs the committee to enter into immediate correspondence with the several county associations, with a view to as early action in the matter as is possible.

The Rev. THOMAS MANN, of Trowbridge, in seconding the resolution, said he had had very great experience in county associations, and about the need of such organisations there could be no question. The possibility of providing for them seemed to be a question demanding their serious consideration. They had so many objects before them—local, general, and special—that it was very hard to squeeze in another fund. Were there not funds already in connection with the association that would, if judiciously administered, almost supply the lack? He should like to have heard an estimate of the incomes of the various trusts of the societies whose object was similar to that which contemplated the relief of needy ministers. Then the Home Missionary Society was really doing this work; it formed a sustentation fund of very great value, and needed only to be augmented. County unions were also doing this, and he believed, doing it in a most effectual way. (Hear, hear.) He thought they had been on a wrong tack in appealing to the people and to the public for assistance. It had been more like charity, and he did not like that pauperising plan at all. (Hear, hear.) He thought every man who was worth supporting should be supported for the labour he did, and not supported as a pauper, or an object of charity—(Hear, hear)—and therefore he should strongly recommend that, in all that was done in that way, the principle which had been adopted by the Committee of Council on Education should be adopted in all their work, viz., payment for results—(Hear, hear)—and not the doles of charity. He believed every man would then feel himself in a right position, and that he was receiving payment from a public fund for work done for a public purpose. He thought a fund might be formed in London, but he did not think it could be administered very practically by a committee gathered from all parts of the kingdom.

The Rev. W. STATHAM said the great object of a sustentation fund should be to preserve the self-respect of the Independent ministry in country places. It was not a charity or a home mission. (Hear, hear.) The Congregationalists wanted to have the best men that their colleges could supply, and if a fund was raised whereby their income should be raised at least to a sufficiency, then many of those who now go to the Episcopal Church and elsewhere would strengthen our body. The more educated and intellectual a man was the more simply, beautifully, and earnestly he could preach the everlasting Gospel of the grace of God. He protested vehemently against the idea that had been expressed that there were a great number of unworthy men in the Congregational ministry. The rich laity in the great towns were quite ready to give their money assistance to a scheme for establishing a sustentation fund.

Mr. GRIMWADE said he was intimately acquainted with the working of the county association in his county, and very great difficulty was experienced in keeping up its income. The great evil in the way was the selfishness of the churches. The religion of the people had not broken their selfishness, because they had not the abiding love of Christ in their hearts. Prayer-meetings were not attended as they ought to be, because men preferred their own business to that of Christ. In the county with which he was connected, of the fifteen ministers who received aid, some only received 70*l.* a year, and the assistance given was regarded solely as the hire which the labourer had earned, not as charity. He, therefore, heartily supported the resolution, and trusted some

definite steps would be taken at once to establish a sustentation fund.

Mr. JURN approved of a consolidation of the funds of the various county associations. It was time to do away with the old methods of giving aid, and to establish something more efficient. At present a pushing man who was very bold in begging could obtain considerable assistance, while a more timid man would have to go without any, because in the former case applications would very likely be made to different committees, and thus aid from several quarters might be obtained.

The Rev. Mr. CLARK said the original idea of the committee was not to help the pastors of villages or evangelists, but pastors in small towns, who were the principal martyrs in the ministry.

The Rev. Dr. GORDON thought it was time to take action at once in establishing a sustentation fund. He was sorry that there was so little *esprit de corps* among Congregational ministers. He expressed his approval of centralisation, and thought it could be easily managed.

The Rev. THOMAS BINNEY said he was not sure that the real question had yet been touched. (Hear, hear.) Who were ministers? who were the persons to be included in this effort? (Hear, hear.) He was a distributor of certain funds, and his correspondence was considerable. Never a week passed without his receiving applications from some part of the country or other, and in addition to a very oppressive correspondence, he frequently made inquiries respecting the individuals who had thus applied, and he often found that they had been two years pastors of little village churches, that previously to that they were town missionaries or in trade, but at the same time he believed that the original donors did not mean the money to go into any such channel. (Hear, hear.) He saw also that the institutions at Bristol and at Nottingham were both started upon the principle of educating evangelists—men who should not look forward to become pastors of churches—but they must know very well that they could not hinder it, that they could not interfere with persons who were gathered together in villages upon their own grand principles of independency, and capable of doing what they liked. He felt that he could not vote for the resolution that had been proposed, because he could not accept the words that they received the report with satisfaction, inasmuch as it held out the idea to those who were recognised as ministers and pastors all over the country that their income was to be 150*l.* a year. Why, many of those men when they received 70*l.* a year got more than they ever had in their lives before. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He did not say that they could come to any such resolution unless they were able like the Presbyterians or the Methodists, to draw a cordon and to have a recognised standard for the ministry. (Hear, hear.) He was rather of opinion that the report should be sent back for reconsideration. He did not think that they were quite apostolical enough in their church government; that in many respects they did not carry their principles of independency far enough in one direction; and that they did not perfect them with a little more apostolical development in another direction. Why should all these people in the villages have paid pastors?—(Hear, hear)—why should every individual man in a village have a minister to be paid who was not attached to any work? Their Congregationalist principles made provision against that, for they believed that any number of men might meet together and edify one another, and he believed that if there was little more of the idea that men who professed to be Congregationalists might, upon their own principles, meet together and edify one another, and not have the expense of supporting a paid minister who did nothing, they would be far more apostolical. Then, again, he would ask, why should those little societies be called and constituted independent churches?—(Hear, hear)—why should they not be associated as branches of a central church?—(Hear, hear)—and why should they not call forth their educated laity—their men who could stand up at political meetings, at corporation meetings, and become common councillors and mayors, and who, if they would take the same talent, and let it bear upon Christian work, might become local preachers, be the means of doing a great deal of good, and remove the necessity for a paid minister?—(Hear, hear, and applause.) Then again, he did not think they went far enough in another direction. He believed in the Epistles of Timothy; they (his hearers) did not. (Laughter.) He believed that in those Epistles there was the rudimentary element of a moderate episcopacy; he believed that if they had in every country some individual of experience and intelligence, who should have the superintendence of the whole district, and that he should have associated with him a council of laity from those different churches, and that they should exercise a superintendence, both spiritual and temporal, over the whole diocese, they would be more apostolical, and be able to do a great deal more good. (Hear, hear.) There was far more of such an organisation underlying the Epistles of Timothy than they were willing to admit.

The Rev. J. KENNEDY said he entertained the greatest reverence for the Rev. T. Binney, but, at the same time, he felt called upon to express the clearest dissent to almost every word he had spoken. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Binney had said that he could not support the resolution, because he could not view the report with satisfaction, but he was there to express the heartiest satisfaction with that report—first, because he believed it expressly said to them, "We have talked long enough about this matter, and we must now set to work." (Hear, hear.) Year after year they had discoursed about it; year after year the same difficulties had been brought up and placed before them; year after year they had

been admonished that they did not understand the Epistles of Timothy—(laughter)—and year after year they had replied that they did understand them; that they did take into account all the difficulties that had been presented to them, and, having taken them into account, they still said, "We should talk about this matter no longer, and should now go to work." (Hear, hear.) Another reason why he felt satisfaction at the report was that it held out the prospect of removing and putting out of the way the very difficulties which were now cast before them as an objection, and he also supported the resolution because it was based purely and simply upon their own principles; that it involved no novelty, and that it did not bring to them the example of other denominations which had other forms of government, and asked them to follow that example, which they could not do without foregoing their own Congregational principles. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. G. ROGERS moved the adjournment of the debate, but the motion was rejected. Mr. Rogers then expressed his objection to the scheme as a premium to incompetency.

Mr. HANNAY proposed to alter his resolution to one placing the matter into the hands of the county associations, so that they might deliberate on the question, and bring forward a report at the next meeting of the Union.

After some discussion this was agreed to, and the session adjourned.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS.

A sectional meeting was held on Wednesday in Norley Chapel, at which a paper on "Music in Worship" was read by the Rev. J. Curwen, London. Mr. W. Crossfield, of Liverpool, presided. The Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., Clapham, read a paper on "Liturgical Forms," in Norley Chapel.

A second sectional meeting was held in the Batter-street Chapel Schoolroom, under the presidency of Mr. E. Grimwade, of Ipswich.

The Rev. T. W. DAVIES, Colchester, read a very useful paper on "The position of Congregationalism in village districts." The following is an abstract:—

The question was now were they to maintain their position and extend their usefulness in the rural districts? They had very special difficulties to contend with in the rural districts which were unknown in town districts, and many of them were almost continually on the increase. Nearly every change which had taken place had been of advantage to them in the large towns and cities, whilst it was greatly the reverse. The population if not diminishing was at the best stationary, and becoming more and more dependent. The once numerous and influential class of yeomen freeholders, which in former years contributed so largely to the strength of the churches, is in many parts of the country rapidly becoming extinct. Smaller holdings, which were once the rule, had greatly become the exception, one very serious result of which was that the control of labour is continually falling into fewer and still fewer hands. Some of the antagonism, too, that they had to meet with was constantly assuming a much more formidable character. Landlord influence, which, as a rule, was everywhere against them, was another thing than once it was. Such is the competition for farms that agents and proprietors, when so disposed, command the tenantry at will. It was anything but rare for them to now openly avow their resolution to listen to no candidate for a vacant holding who will not pledge himself to the support of the Establishment. Of course, whenever farms are accepted under such conditions, it is only what one might expect, if the tenants follow the example set them by their landlords, and exact the same or similar conditions from all whom they employ. They had also a race of clergy in the rural districts that they never had before—a race as much distinguished by activity and zeal as their predecessors generally were for the reverse. And while in other parts of the country they were generally become more liberal, and more tolerant of Nonconformity, the case was different in rural districts. Numbers of them, too, were Ritualists, and were seldom scrupulous as to the means which they employ to undermine their (the Nonconformists') usefulness. In the face of these difficulties, some contemplated the future of the churches in such parts of the country with great anxiety, but such was their greater confidence in their principles, and greater still in such a promise as "I am with you always," that they did not yield to fear for them, and believed that God would so overrule the difficulties that they would be blessings. Sympathy is power, and union is strength; and how far did the churches in the rural districts realise this fact and act accordingly in their relations to each other. Some were very prosperous, their congregations and their fellowship were large, and their resources are considerable. But a great proportion of them were but struggling and poor. Were the stronger ones as ready as they might and ought to be to help the weak? And were the weaker always as willing to be cared for by the strong as they have need to be? Another question was what were their churches doing for the population in their several neighbourhoods? Some, indeed, were working hard, but were not many more of them too well content to leave the evangelistic labour to their minister? The rural districts were becoming more and more dependent on the laity. Would that all their churches in those districts were more alive to this. Should not every church, without exception, have its mission-stations, and its body of lay-preachers formally appointed, and efficiently organised for their supply. Should it not, too, be expected of the leading and the more experienced members of their churches that they should be prominent in this good work. If they were to overtake the destitution that prevailed around them, and, still more, if their churches were to gather any great addition to their strength, and to their influence as the result, lay-preaching must become as general among us as it now is almost rare, and the better educated laymen must be no less ready to assume the lead in it, than they were now too often to excuse themselves and keep aloof. It would be well if the officers and some of the leading members of the churches in the rural districts were to periodically meet for conference together to look into each other's circumstances, to compare experiences, and especially to so combine and organise themselves for mission work in their localities. But when the

churches there had done their utmost, there would yet remain much work to do in their rural districts, which can be overtaken only by such agencies as that of their county union. Some of these unions were not as useful as they ought to be; were not some of them much rather associations of ministers than unions of churches? And was not this a disadvantage and a source of weakness to them? Was not too much left sometimes to the executive and to the annual meeting? Some very efficient unions divided the counties into manageable districts; each of these districts is entrusted to the supervision of a sub-committee, which consisted of the officers and two or more formally appointed representatives of the churches in that locality. These sub-committees keep the executive constantly apprised of the wants of their several districts, and the executive in no case acts except in conference with them. The unions should set themselves more sternly against the founding of all independent churches in localities where they are little likely to be self-supporting. They had far too many such already, and not a few of them were no help to them, no comfort to their ministers, and no honour to themselves. Some of them might be prevailed on to unite together or with one of their neighbours. This would not be an easy thing to do, but it ought to be attempted, and in many cases the county unions would be more than justified in making their consent to such a proposal a condition of contributing to their support. At any rate, they should do all in their power to discountenance the increase of such churches, but in justice to their principles and to themselves. He further contended that some of their methods of administering the funds of their county unions were open to objection; that their chief hope was in the London Missionary Society, and that much good would be done if the chief ministers of the body made periodical visits into the country. In conclusion, he deplored the Educational Act being of much use to the Independent body in the rural districts unless they could raise a fund to build schools that would be entitled to a grant. The Conscience Clause would be a sham.

The Rev. W. M. PAUL, of Romsey, next read a paper on the desirability of an arrangement with other bodies of Nonconformists to prevent mutually exhausting competition in thinly-peopled districts. The speaker thought that there should be a rule that no chapel should be built, or services opened, within a certain distance of an existing chapel, except the population amounted to a certain number. A mutual understanding might be arrived at by which one place might be apportioned to one party, and another place to another party according to the relative strength of the parties. In some counties there was already an approximation to that by the union of the Baptist and Independent churches for work. They were all one in the great essentials of Christian doctrine. He would suggest that the subject be submitted to the attention of the committee, who might make it the subject of a paper to be read by a distinguished gentleman, at a subsequent meeting, and if it found favour with the meeting, a letter could be prepared and forwarded to the leaders of the various denominations, explaining the motives which induced them to seek a compromise. What they wished simply was unity and Christian effort. It would go a great way to remove a scandal from Nonconformity. It had been said that their separation from the Established Church was equal to apostasy from God, inasmuch as it created hatred and strife. In conclusion, he said it would largely increase their power of defence and prepare them for a closer union.

An interesting discussion ensued, in which the Revs. J. H. Wilson, Murphy, J. Weighman, Wagstaff, Whitley, Noble, Egg, Pinn, and Ross, and Messrs. Jupe and Nicholls, took part.

Votes of thanks were given to the readers of the papers, and the subjects were deemed of such importance that the committee were desired to bring them forward at the next autumnal meeting.

A third sectional meeting was held at the Courtenay-street Chapel, Alderman Baines in the chair. There was a large attendance. The Rev. Dr. STOUTON, of Kensington, read a paper on "The Ministry." We can only indicate one or two of the ideas that pervaded it. In reference to a sustentation fund, the first point to be settled was, who were the persons eligible to receive its help? In the Church of England, and amongst Presbyterians and Methodists, the inquiry created no perplexity, but it did create perplexity amongst Congregationalists, and it would be worth while to devote meeting after meeting, and to call in all the wisdom of the denomination, to come to some definite conclusions as to the matter. With respect to the ordination of such young men as had undergone a regular education in one of their colleges, he did not see that any difficulty existed; for they were examined by the professors of the institution to which they belonged, and received certificates of character and competency. But he did think that one pastor by himself, with such accidental sources of information as he might happen to possess, ought not to be left to assume all the responsibility in so important a matter as the ordination of ministers. He had seen, and he had felt the mischief of it in more cases than one, and this fact commended to his mind the advice of the London brethren, who said that, previous to the public service of which the ordination or recognition of a pastor took place, a conference of local ministers and, if practicable, of delegates or officers of neighbouring churches, should be held, at which the incoming pastor should offer those explanations and afford that information respecting his personal character, his views of essential truth, and the circumstances of his settlement, which, if satisfactory, would enable them to give him an intelligent welcome. (Hear, hear.) And, in connection with care and inquiry as to the recognition of ministers, came up the subject of care and inquiry in the recognition of churches, for whatever right small bodies of men might claim to invest themselves with an ecclesiastical character, they could have no claim to demand recognition, sympathy, and

assistance in a corporate capacity from neighbouring churches without giving reasons for their spiritual incorporation. The churches must be looked at in connection with their pastors. Feeble churches were prolific causes of feeble ministers. Irregularities in the formation of churches led to irregularities in the ordination of ministers. A watchful oversight was required in both respects, and he did not see how the recognition of churches could be regulated excepting through the medium of their County Associations, the importance of which grew, in his estimation, every day, the more he considered the perils which encompassed modern Congregationalism. It was plausibly insisted upon by some that churches as well as individuals had the right of independent action, and ought not to be controlled or dictated to by others. Be it so; and the theory might be practically carried out where a church had the power and disposition to stand by itself, but the case was very different where churches wished to be recognised, and especially where they had no sufficient resources of their own, and were compelled by circumstances to seek help from others—(Hear, hear)—and where continued existence depended upon recognition, sympathy, and aid. Under such circumstances the churches whose countenance and succour were sought had something to say about the right of inquiry and examination before such countenance or succour could be fairly demanded. (Hear, hear.) Next to the introduction of men to the ministry, let them look at the preparation of men for the ministry. They must be prepared before they were introduced. As a rule, their pastors should undergo a collegiate education. There might be exceptions. Genius, strong spiritual impulses, and the power of gathering up large and deep social sympathies; the faculty of kindling a wide-spread religious enthusiasm of a pure and noble kind were things not subject to commonplace rules; but he would insist upon what he had said as a maxim, that the pastors of their churches should pass through an academic curriculum. The opening of the Universities to Nonconformist students, and the anticipated admission of Nonconformist scholars to College emoluments and dignities, could not but have some effect upon their future plans. It seemed to him not improbable that important modifications in their educational arrangements would arise from this cause, and that some day at least, with a certain class of men, it would be found advisable that their literary culture should be pursued in the national Universities, and that their theological training should be conducted in well-appointed Divinity Halls. ("Hear, hear," and applause.)

An interesting discussion followed, in which the Rev. T. Binney, the Rev. J. M. Charlton, the Rev. F. E. Anthony, the Rev. T. Tuffield, of Woolwich, the Rev. Mr. Chappel, and others took part.

On Wednesday evening there was a public meeting at St. James's Hall for the exposition and enforcement of free church principles. The hall was crowded in every part, and the audience was a most influential one. It was hoped that Mr. Alfred Rooker would have arrived from America in time to have taken the chair, but in the absence of that gentleman his place was ably filled by Mr. Alexander Hubbard, the ex-Mayor of Plymouth, who was strongly supported by the leading members of the Union. After a brief speech from the chairman, the Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER delivered an address on "The Attitude Obligatory on Nonconformists in Relation to the Question of Church and State." The Rev. L. D. BEVAN, of London, spoke of the probable effects that would be produced by the disestablishment of the English Church. The Rev. W. J. COX, the delegate from the Congregational Churches of Scotland, followed with an address on the position of Congregationalism in that country. The Rev. J. G. ROGERS, of Clapham, dealt with the subject of the growing Catholicity among the churches of Christ. We are obliged to withhold our report of this meeting till next week.

On Thursday morning at nine o'clock a prayer-meeting was held in Sherwell Chapel, the special subject of prayer being the state of other countries in regard to religion, with a particular reference to the continent of Europe. The Rev. Professor Charlton, Principal of the Western College, presided, and after the singing of a hymn and the reading of Scriptures, he delivered an appropriate address.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.

The morning session for business commenced at ten, when a paper was read by the Rev. F. SONLEY JOHNSTONE, Merthyr-Tydvil, on "The Relation of the State of Religious Teaching in its bearing on the Problem of National Education and Kindred Questions." The following is an extract:—

Pardon me if I speak plainly and strongly, but I cannot help saying that those Nonconformists who have cried out against Church catechisms and formularies, and yet insisted on the Bible as part of a national education, have acted very selfishly. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) The Bible is the creed, the standard, the catechism of Protestant Nonconformity. (Applause.) Except our hymns, we seldom bring any other book even into our sanctuaries. It is easy, then, for us to say—Let us only have the Bible, our essential, but exclude what Churchmen and Roman Catholics deem essential to them. But this demand is more creditable to our love of the Bible than to our readiness to do to others as we would that they should do unto us. So long as we shut the creeds and formularies of others out of the public schools, we must be content to have the Bible taught, not in these schools, but in our own institutions and by means of our own agents. Otherwise we must commit the religious teaching of the young to the State and its school-boards. It was by insisting on Bible reading in public schools that we lost our ground

this year. (Hear, hear.) It was impossible for us to have the utmost that under any circumstances we should have claimed, and yet have Churchmen and Catholics shorn of what was precious beyond all estimation in their sight. But, supposing us to agree in refusing to the State the right of control in religious teaching, you are aware that we have often been called upon to arm local boards with authority in religious matters which we refuse to the State. That is to say, we are to concede to a local Parliament, a State set up to our own doors, what we will never concede to the Imperial Legislature. But is it not, on the very face of it, obviously unfair to separate the State and its responsibilities from organisations called by imperial enactment into existence to effect the purposes of the State?

The rev. gentleman then proceeded at some length to explain the various details of the Education Act, and concluded by expressing his belief that, combined with other educational reforms, the reorganisation of the endowed schools, the opening of the Universities, the better appropriation of scholarships—the Elementary Education Act, thoroughly worked, might provide for all the training which befitted their station, and open to those of whatever social position, whose parentage was more lowly than their endowments of mind and heart, a pathway to the foremost rank of those "who grasp the golden keys, or frame the whisper of a throne," or by noble Christian service became kings among men.

The Rev. Mr. SHAW, of Boston, moved the following resolution:—

That this assembly records its solemn protest against the application by the Government of the resources of the State to the religious teaching of the people, whether in the schools or in the churches of the land; that it regards with deep dissatisfaction the legislation of the past session in so far as increased facilities were provided by it for conducting sectarian education at the public expense; and that, while heartily approving of any action which may be needful in order to give the Elementary Education Act practical effect as a means of promoting the education of the people, it warmly deprecates sectarian rivalry in extending the present denominational system. The assembly further believing that the existence of Churches in this country, aided and controlled by the State, not only contravenes the principle on which this protest is founded, but is the chief barrier in the way of the just settlement of many other questions besides that of national education which affect the civil and religious interests of the people, counsels that energetic help be given to any wise movement which may be originated for the disestablishment and disendowment of those Churches.

In the course of his speech he said:—

One could not read the debates upon this question which had taken place in the House of Commons without feeling that the Nonconformists were rather contemptuously treated by the Government. (Hear, hear.) He yielded to no man in his general admiration of the character, and ability, and service of the Prime Minister of this country—(applause)—but he must confess at the same time that he thought Mr. Gladstone, in his unstudied forms of courtesy, was somewhat ungrateful and ungracious in his treatment of Edward Miall—(Hear, hear)—when that gentleman, having a recollection of what the Whigs, or the Liberals, of this country had done to the Dissenters at many crises in our history, ventured to express the indignation that was roused in his breast by the proverb, "Once bitten, twice shy." It might possibly be that there was a mistake committed by Mr. Miall in the way in which he spoke—"Hear, hear," and "No, no"—but after Mr. Disraeli had himself said of this bill that it would create a new sacerdotal class in the country, was it to be wondered at that a man like Mr. Miall should have had his suspicions aroused? (Applause.) Mr. Forster, in the speech which he made, evidently wished to convey the impression that they had nothing to fear from the religious instruction that would be communicated in schools to very little children; that it was of an exceedingly elementary kind, and would be done in a very perfunctory sort of way; but let them go into the Roman Catholic schools, and into the schools that were conducted by the managers of the Ritualistic portion of the Church of England, and see the religious instruction conveyed to the children by symbols, by picture, and by hymns sang to the Virgin, and to all the other saints, and then say whether the impression made upon the mind of very young England was not a matter of great importance. (Hear, hear.) The endeavour of Mr. Forster to make it out that they had nothing to fear from this source was only a skilful attempt on his part to throw dust in their eyes. (Hear, hear.) With regard to what they were to do in the future, he must confess that he contemplated with considerable alarm the present position which they occupied with reference to this question. The resolution counselled them to protest, but it seemed to him that the time had come when they must do something more than protest, and go heartily to work. Much as he admired Mr. Forster he had not full confidence in him. (Hear, hear.) He had not confidence in the feeling which Mr. Forster entertained towards Nonconformists. (Applause.) He thought that the existing state of affairs behoved them to be up and doing, and look after the elections. He wondered what chance a Liberal would have in any borough if he were not sustained with Nonconformist votes? (Hear, hear.) Then, again, there was that powerful organisation, of which he had long been a member—the Liberation Society. (Applause.) He was inclined to think that the Liberation Society was not quite so vigorous as it once was. It appeared to be doing things by a "bit-by-bit" legislation, but why did not its committee employ men of acknowledged mental power and gifts of eloquence as the Anti-Corn-Law League did, and send them through the length and breadth of the land with a voice calculated to stir up the minds of their churches and of the community upon this great and important question and others cognate thereto. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. Mr. MORRIS, of Bristol, in seconding the resolution, said he thought their immediate duty was to make the best of that which was within their reach.

The Rev. G. M. MURPHY, of London, after some reference to the 97th clause of the Act, said that although he was inclined to think that the British School system was the first false step, yet he had to thank God that that false step was ever taken, because almost the whole of the instruction he ever had the happiness of receiving in his youth, was

received under the auspices of the British and Foreign School Society. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. F. E. ANTHONY wished to correct what seemed to be a misapprehension on the part of the rev. gentleman who had last spoken. In referring to the 97th section of the Act, he appeared to think that there was a rigid exclusion from all schools receiving Government aid of distinctive religious teaching, but the clause simply laid down the rule that there should be no difference made in a school being able to have a grant, or not to have a grant, in the event of its having religious instruction, or of its having no religious instruction at all. But for anyone to suppose that by this bill a distinctive religious teaching was rigidly excluded was to suppose that the bill contained an excellence which none of them were able to find out. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He contended that it was impossible for them as Protestant Nonconformists, ever to accept the bill.

The Rev. T. W. DAVIDS, of Colchester, did not doubt they would be able to protect themselves in all sorts of ways in the metropolis, but it was different in the rural districts and small towns, and he would ask if it was possible to elect school boards in the latter places. ("No, no," and "Yes.") He wished the gentlemen who had said "Yes" would come down and spend a fortnight in Essex. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He contended that it would be absolutely impossible in their overwhelming rural districts to elect school boards. He would say, moreover, that it would be absolutely impossible in the great majority of small towns to elect school boards, for what was the fight for in the small towns? It was a fight for supremacy of parties, and not a fight for conscience. (Hear, hear.) For his own part, it seemed to be almost a hopeless case, and that was the reason why he protested, spoke, and worked against the present measure. (Hear, hear.) They must not be governed in England by their parsons. (Applause.)

The Rev. Mr. COLBORNE, of Norwich, said he supposed the Church of England would very vigorously resist the introduction of school boards anywhere, but school boards would be appointed and a great many Nonconformists would undoubtedly be upon the boards, and he presumed a great difficulty would come up in the appointment of a schoolmaster. (Hear, hear.) They would, very naturally, wish to place a godly man at the head of a school, but they would find that a godly man would say that he would not accept the appointment unless he was allowed to instil religious convictions into the minds of the children under his care.

The Rev. J. HUTCHINSON, Ashton-under-Lyne, said that the question for them to consider would be whether, under the circumstances, they were prepared to accept the bill. He had been connected with a large school for many years, and he had always refused to give his approval to the acceptance of the Privy Council grant, for, to his mind, the reading of the Bible was equivalent to giving religious instruction. Now, a bill had been passed which did away with that requirement. He had read the bill carefully through, to see if there was anything in it which prevented his giving his consent to it, and he was compelled to answer in the negative. (Hear, hear.) In the first place, the managers of school boards had the choice of excluding all Bible lessons. There would be no money given for religious teaching, and no examination, and in giving his consent to the bill, he did not think he should be violating his feelings that the State had no right to interfere with the religious teaching of the people.

The Rev. T. BINNEY said that the Nonconformists had had a fair stand-up fight, and were beaten, and there was no use in continuing the fight now. The better way was to make the best of the bill, and show that they really desired the education of the people, and that they would do that as far as they could, and if there were objectionable parts in the bill they could do all that was possible to get it altered. But let them accept the bill, for he was certain on the principles they professed they might with perfect conscientiousness accept the advantages offered by the bill. He believed that the best condition, the ideal of national education, would be that the Government should assist secular instruction and that the spiritual development should be left entirely to the church and to the parents. (Applause.) That was his ideal, but they were not in an elementary condition of society, and for sixty years the religious bodies in the country had been raising schools and spending their money in educating the people; and did they think that in a moment all this could be set aside? No, their ideal could not be reached, and expediency, wisdom, and prudence had to guide them in this matter. He should not vote for this motion, because it mixed up other things with education, and, after the meeting of the previous night, there was no need for its last clauses, because the Congregational Union ought not to become a branch of the Liberation Society. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. JUNE hoped the discussion would set at rest any difficulties that might exist among them on the question, and regretted that many years since they lost their opportunity of taking a proper share in the educational work of the nation.

The Rev. BRYAN DALE thought the question was, could they, with perfect religious equality, receive the aid? He refused to receive money from the Roman Catholics, who objected to the reading of the Bible in the school; and the only true position was that all schools should be secular.

The Rev. J. G. ROGERS was opposed to their engaging in any sort of sectarian battle, in a strife with other bodies as to who should have the largest number of schools, and defended the retention of the latter part of the resolution because, if it had not

been for the existence of an Established Church, there would not have been all the difficulties to contend with. (Applause.)

The resolution was then carried without a single dissident holding up his hand.

The SECRETARY mentioned that two subjects had been referred by the Reference Committee to the General Committee, it having been found impossible to introduce the subjects before the Union that day. One was a memorial from the United Kingdom Alliance, and the other a memorial from the Society for the Abolition of the Contagious Diseases Acts. The General Committee would consider the questions, and resolutions might be adopted by them and communicated to the parties concerned.

UNIVERSITY REFORM.

The Rev. Mr. DAVIDSON, Bolton, moved, and the Rev. Mr. CHAPMAN, Bath, seconded, and it was carried unanimously,—

That this Union regrets the failure of the scheme of university reform which last session received the sanction of the House of Commons and the Government; that it is of opinion that no settlement of the question can be final which does not include all the provisions of the measure, and which does not further put an end to the necessity of taking orders as the condition of holding any office or emolument in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the colleges thereof, respectively; and it instructs the committee to memorialise Her Majesty's Government on the subject, and to watch the progress of any measure which may be introduced next session.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman of the Union and to the local committee were adopted with great cordiality, great praise being bestowed upon the Congregational churches and inhabitants of Plymouth for their great hospitality.

In the evening there was a conversation at the Royal Hotel. It was attended by all the leading ministers and delegates of the Union, by members of the Congregational churches of the three towns, and by several Churchmen of Plymouth. Seven hundred ladies and gentlemen crowded the Assembly Rooms, and after partaking of the liberal refreshment provided, they enjoyed friendly chat, for which the amplest time was allowed. A selection of sacred music was performed, and after the singing of a verse of the National Anthem by the whole assembly, the Mayor (a Churchman) took the chair, and speeches of a congratulatory character were delivered by the Revs. A. Hannay, J. C. Harrison, and E. B. Hickman. Mr. HUBBARD announced that the Earl of Mount Edgcombe had, with his usual kindness and liberality, thrown open his beautiful park to those members of the Union who wished to visit it. (Applause.) He also made mention of the liberality of the railway companies towards the ministers and delegates of the Union. The Mayor of DUNSTON spoke of the gratification the inhabitants of the town felt in finding that the meeting had been a success. The Rev. J. ALDIS (Baptist) said that his experience was that Plymouthians were always practising hospitality, and the week's exertions in this respect was nothing new to them. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) The Baptists were so much of Congregationalists that they felt as if they had been entertaining members of their own Church. Mr. J. N. BENNETT, as a member of the Church of England, endorsed all that had been said in reference to the great importance of the meeting which was just being brought to a close; for many of the principles which the members had enunciated would long be remembered by the people of this neighbourhood, and not only so, but they had been affectionately recorded in their memories, and would tend to the advancement of the great result all hoped for—the inclusion of all under the common, the primitive, and the comprehensive name of Christians. (Applause.) A most cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor, and the pronouncement of the benediction by the Rev. J. C. HARRISON, brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.—These services were resumed last Sunday, when the Rev. Newman Hall, after reading the Litany, preached in the afternoon, and the Rev. E. Jones, of Trevor Chapel, Brompton, in the evening. An audited report was presented, by which it appeared that the expenses of the last session of ten months had amounted to 450*l.*; the offertory had been 419*l.* 18*s.*; and the balance had been made up by a few donations. Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., is the treasurer. The services will be continued on an unsentimental basis, the Rev. Newman Hall taking the afternoon, and eminent clergymen, of different churches, both Established and Nonconformist, conducting the evening service.

NEW-COURT CHAPEL, CAREY-STREET.—The trustees of this well-known place of worship, which was removed a few years ago, upon its site being required by the commissioners for the new law courts in Lincoln's-inn, have succeeded in securing a very eligible spot of ground in Tollington-park, Hornsey-road, upon which a new chapel is in course of erection. In the neighbourhood of the spot selected, a large population is located, and there can be no question that New-court Chapel will be found a valuable addition to the means of grace in that district. The building will be erected in a commanding situation, nearly opposite Fonthill-road, leading to Seven Sisters'-road, and in the immediate vicinity of Finsbury-park. The proposed structure will be of elegant design, of the Grecian order. The design includes commodious vestries, schoolrooms, &c. Messrs. Searle and Son, of Bloomsbury-place, are the architects, and Messrs. Dove, Brothers, the builders.

THE REV. MARMADUKE MILLER having intimated to the trustees of Brunswick Chapel, Huddersfield, his intention to remove to another sphere of labour in August next, a public meeting of the church and congregation was held on Wednesday, when a strongly expressed resolution was heartily and unani-

mously adopted, urging Mr. Miller to reconsider his determination, and to withdraw his resignation indefinitely, or, if that was not practicable, at least to consent to remain the pastor of the church until August, 1872. On Sunday morning the rev. gentleman stated from the pulpit that he was deeply moved by the kind and affectionate consideration of the church and congregation, with whom he had worked happily and harmoniously. He did not expect, nor indeed did he wish, to be more comfortably settled than he was in his present pastoral relationship, and under these circumstances he should be glad to comply with their request to remain with them until August, 1872.

ENGLISH MINISTERS IN AMERICA.—A number of visitors to America, who would have been delegates to the Evangelical Alliance meeting, if that had been held this year, were received at an informal meeting of the association in New York on the 23rd of September. Mr. William E. Dodge presided, and a resolution was passed, extending a hearty welcome to the following gentlemen, most of whom were present:—The Rev. Joseph Angus, D.D., of London; Dr. Macaulay, London; the Rev. Henry Allon, joint editor of the *British Quarterly Review*; the Rev. Dr. Mullens, of the London Missionary Society; the Rev. Professor Revel, of Florence; the Rev. Isaac G. Bliss, agent of the Bible Society at Constantinople; the Rev. Mr. Edwards, the Rev. A. Holborn, the Rev. John Pulling, the Rev. Cousens Cooke, the Rev. George C. Hutton, the Rev. P. M'Dowall, the Rev. E. H. Bickersteth, the Rev. Mr. Muller, the Rev. Mr. Magill; and Messrs. Hooker, Denby, Wright, and Cater, of Great Britain, and the Rev. R. König, of Hungary.

Correspondence.

THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS OF DEVONSHIRE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—The anticipations expressed by many of the warmest friends of national education that the Act as passed would be turned to the special benefit of the Anglican Church, and that the equality of Conformists and Nonconformists was inadequately provided for, have received a strong confirmation from the proceedings of the county meeting held here on Friday last, when a large committee was appointed to communicate with the Government on the subject of the endowed schools. On that committee not the name of a single Dissenter is to be found. The sole excuse put forward has been that they had been unintentionally forgotten. Now the simple fact that a body so large, so actively engaged as they have been in the good work of popular instruction, should have been forgotten and ignored, is a sad proof of the exclusive spirit of a cathedral city, of the power of the Church of England, and of its desire, if possible, to monopolise the possession of a field, of so large a portion of which they have had the monopoly. The old habits and feelings of the Church party are so rooted in their nature, their habits, and their institutions, that they struggle to maintain in ecclesiastical matters the privileges which have been wrested from them in the political arena. As far as they can exercise authority there will be a "no surrender" of long enjoyed advantages. It is useful that the Nonconformists should be awake to a sense of that humiliation which it is wished to perpetuate, and be moved by a determination to insist upon and to secure those equal advantages which they are entitled to enjoy, and which assuredly they will not be willing to surrender.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A WATCHMAN.

Exeter, Oct. 11, 1870.

GERMAN GRIEVANCES AGAINST FRANCE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—Pardon me for the suggestion that your article "Will he?" is so unfair to Germany, that it takes no cognizance of the following facts:—

1. Count Bismark states that during 100 years France has twenty-five times declared war against Germany.
2. Napoleon I. gladly yielded to the claims of the petty princes of Germany to establish their petty kingdoms, that France might dictate German politics.
3. France has ever been hostile to the unification of Germany, because she saw that her forty-six millions of Teutons would be a barrier to the preponderance of France in Europe.
4. The balance of power between Austria and Prussia has ever proved an effectual internal barrier to this unification till 1866, when Prussia decided her superiority, and at once commenced the unity of Germany.
5. The Emperor of France at that time lost prestige in his own country, because he did not at once move to prevent the union, and consequently the growing power of Germany.
6. From that time (1866), France has designed the suppression of Prussia, and at the commencement of this war, M. Rouher took credit to France for having been four years preparing her designed punishment of Prussia.
7. She has in the interval repeatedly tried a quarrel, and has only been deterred from entering on it by fear. The declaration of war in July last was a piece of the most wanton barbarism.
8. I will not ask you or your readers to institute any

comparison between the moral worth, general education, political intelligence of the two nations. The facts on these points that have transpired during the present war, must be patent to all.

9. Germany asks now only satisfactory guarantees against any future molestation by France.

10. France already holds German territory, nefariously acquired, and entered on this war with the avowed intention of appropriating more.

11. Germany asks no territory that is not German.

12. It is competent to France to close the war by electing a competent government, and concluding a peace on the German terms.

13. Before Germany can be held guilty of any injury the war may entail on France, it must be shown that her conditions of peace are unfair and dishonourable.

I fear from the tone of your article, that you too sympathise with that strange feeling held by some in England, that France may perpetrate any amount of wrong and plunder upon other nations, but that to make her disgorge any of her ill-gotten territory, or to make her suffer the legitimate consequences of her own sins, shocks the refinement and civilisation of the nineteenth century. Will you please to say why France more than any other nation is to be held thus sacred? Are the Germans responsible for finding Paris a fortified city, or for having to capture it to bring France to terms?

Is Paris so virtuous a city that it merits no punishment? Have you ever tried to solve the question of what country in Europe is likely to become the Second Republic? Allow me to suggest that it will be Germany. King William and Count Bismark will not live for ever.

Very respectfully yours,

F. W. RAABE.

Allesley Park College, Coventry,
October 15, 1870.

[It is quite clear that Mr. Raabe is not in the habit of reading the *Nonconformist*, or he would have found that most of the positions he lays down in his strictures on a single article, have been over and over again enforced in its columns.—ED. *Noncon.*]

THE WAR.

THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

It is announced from Versailles that the chief obstacles in the way of the conveyance of the siege train to Paris, and of the placing of the guns in position, are now so far overcome, that the commencement of operations may be expected almost immediately. The French papers have published statements of great successes of the garrison of Paris, the result of which has been to prevent the placing of German works near the forts, and to drive the investing force farther from the city. Such is the tenour of M. Gambetta's last proclamation at Tours. On the other hand, the German Staff declare that their troops "occupy exactly the positions which they obtained on the 19th September." On the 14th and 15th inst., it is added, there were small outpost engagements before Paris. The Prussian Government has published in its official organ an article designed to moderate the impatience of those who are expecting the batteries before Paris to open at once, and the city to capitulate immediately afterwards. The immense labour of carrying heavy guns from the east of France to Paris, and of transporting them over hill and dale to the places where they are to be put in batteries, is dwelt on. A regular siege, and also a bombardment, is said to be contemplated, but the portion of the environs from which a bombardment can be directed—not alone against the main rampart and several suburbs, but against the very heart of the city—is the most hilly and impracticable of all. The opinion is expressed that the bombardment of the city will not be proceeded with until the fire of several forts has been silenced, for great as might be the impression made by a bombardment, it cannot be the object of Count Bismark to aim at a partial result. To secure all they want, and secure it safely, the Germans require the forts, and they confidently expect that they will not be long in conquering some. It results from this statement that after the forts have been taken an opportunity will be given to the defenders of Paris to reconsider their position before they are subjected to the horrors of a bombardment.

Intelligence from the German head-quarters of the 13th inst. remarks that the absence of any offensive power on the part of the forces in Paris becomes every day more striking. Since the 30th of September no sortie in force has been made. No artillery fire has been opened by the Germans, though the French forts waste their ammunition to an incredible extent.

On the night of the 11th the three first shots were fired by the Prussian redoubt at Bellevue against Paris. They hit Fort Vanvres. On the 13th the Palace of St. Cloud was set on fire by a French shell, probably from Mont Valérien. It was burning next day. No Prussian batteries had been erected

there. It is said that the Germans tried in vain to save the Palace. A grenade burst in the bedroom of Napoleon I., smashed the grand looking-glasses, and shattered the walls. St. Cloud is a total ruin, the pictures and tapestry all burnt; the bust of Napoleon and some books were saved. The Berlin semi-official and independent papers denounce the bombardment of the Palace as vandalism, committed by the very parties that protest against the bombardment of the fortress of Paris.

A telegram from Berlin of the 17th says:—"I am reliably informed that the troops before Paris are not suffering from want of provisions. The operations against the city have been delayed by Count Bismark's desire to prevent, if possible, the shelling of the city. An attack is expected next week." A *Daily News* telegram states "on good authority" that Paris will not be shelled.

Rifled cannon, throwing shells weighing three hundred pounds a distance of five miles, have been sent from the Baltic forts to the works before Paris.

The armies investing Paris have been and are receiving heavy reinforcements, consisting of Landwehr, of the Guards heretofore before Strasbourg, and the bulk of the newly-formed 13th Corps, heretofore before Toul. These reinforcements proceed by way of Meaux. The Baden Division is marching by way of Troyes, and also the reserve corps formed in Silesia, which is to be designated the 15th Corps. Altogether there are about 100,000 men.

INSIDE PARIS.

A good deal of intelligence by balloon express has been received from Paris, extending down to Sunday last. By far the most important news—if it be news—is from the German head-quarters, to the effect that the rinderpest prevails among the cattle within the city.

A correspondent of the *Times* gives full particulars of the discomfiture of the members of the Democratic clubs on the 8th. MM. Ledru-Rollin, Blanqui, Felix Pyat, and Flourens, have for some time been agitating in the clubs for the immediate election of a Municipal Commune. This concession is described by Ledru-Rollin as "the only means of saving France," and ought, he maintains, "to be revived as an act of duty, and out of regard to the memory of the members of the ancient commune of Paris, all of whom perished on the scaffold." In establishing it he would not, he said, abolish the Provisional Government, but would render it the executive of the Commune's legislative acts, which is as much as to say Flourens is to decree and Jules Favre is to do his bidding. The clubs also demanded the levy *en masse*, the appeal to republican Europe, the discharge of all "suspects" from positions of trust, and a general distribution of daily rations to all citizens from the stores of provisions existing in the capital. The Government were, fortunately, firm, and refused every one of these demands, which so irritated Major Flourens and wounded his self-esteem that he at once resigned his military command, as a sort of menace to the authorities; but, finding, contrary to his expectations, that his resignation was cheerfully accepted by the Commander-in-Chief, he was constrained to withdraw it and to try the effect of another manifestation. On the 8th an immense gathering was organised in front of the Hotel de Ville. The *Journal Officiel* of that morning had announced that the Government had finally determined to postpone the municipal elections until after the termination of the siege; but, nothing daunted, the men of Belleville and La Villette betook themselves to the trysting-place, and, before two o'clock, a crowd of several thousand persons had assembled, a considerable proportion of whom were National Guards, who, with some rare exceptions, had all come unarmed. The correspondent describes the scene as follows:—

Inside the iron railings of the Hotel de Ville a detachment of Breton Gardes Mobiles was drawn up in line, with fixed bayonets, and looking stolid and determined. The mob called out to them to sheathe their bayonets, but the Bretons remained immovable and seemingly unconcerned. Suddenly a loud murmur is heard, as the 84th battalion of National Guards, belonging to the Faubourg Saint Germain, arrives upon the place under arms, at quick march, with its officers at its head, and takes up a position between the people massed in front of them and the iron railings behind which the Mobile Guards are posted. Order is given to them to sheathe their bayonets, a proceeding which the mob signify their approval of by cries of "Vive la 84ème."

Meanwhile the crowd steadily increases, and the shouts for the Commune grow louder and louder. At this moment a couple of "citoyens" advance immediately in front of the battalion of National Guards, bearing on the ends of small poles cards on which are written, "Les fusils sont une menace" ("The guns are to threaten us"), whereupon some two or three National Guards reverse their muskets, by way of signifying their sympathy with the populace, who reply with cheers, which induces some twenty others to follow the example of their comrades, an act which provokes more cheers, and frantic cries on all sides of "La Commune!" "Vive la Commune!" The situation seems for the moment critical, the heavy gates of the Hotel de Ville are closed, the *rappel* is beaten, and, as if at its summons, an armed detachment of National Guards, most of whom are in b'ouses, and evidently belong to the working classes, bears down upon the place from the quay. It was easy to perceive that fully three-fourths of the assembly were opposed to the agitators of Belleville, and one felt somewhat reassured.

Other battalions of National Guard, in attendance to the summons of the *rappel*, make their appearance, and to the shouts for the Commune with which they are greeted respond by crying, "Vive la République! Vive la France!" General Tamisier, Commander-in-Chief, now presents himself upon the scene and rides from group to group, attempting to pacify the more turbulent. To their demands for the Commune he

replies paternally, "No, my children; not at present. *Vive la République!*" The rumbling sound of the cannon is at this moment distinctly heard, and for an instant or two every voice is stilled. "Hearken to the cannon," resumes the old general; "is this the time, think you, to foment dissensions?"

A deputation, comprising three members of the Central Republican Committee, have been admitted to the Hotel de Ville and received by M. Jules Ferry, who, on being apprised by them that they came, "charged by the sovereign people to press their demand for the immediate election of the Municipal Commune," dryly declined to enter into any discussion upon the subject, and bowed them out; Count de Kératry, the Prefect of Police, "the clerical Breton," as the demagogues style him, meanwhile threatening them with arrest.

Battalion after battalion of National Guards, with drums beating and colours flying, now arrive on the place from all points, the officers flourishing the swords, and crying, "*A bas la Commune!*" "*Pas de Révolution!*" which is the signal for an outburst on the part of the supporters of the Government, and shouts of "*Vive la République!*" "*Vive la France!*" rend the air on all sides. Each battalion, each company forming itself in square constrains the crowd to retire in some measure. Eventually the squares unfold, the lines form together, and in the twinkling of an eye the immense place is cleared of its many thousand occupants. The drummers now place themselves in the centre and beat the salute, the trumpets sound, the doors of the Hotel de Ville are thrown open, and the members of the Government of National Defence sally forth, greeted every step of their way with loud acclamations, which they acknowledge by cries of "*Vive la République!*" and by waving their hats above their heads. They perform the tour of the place, always encountering the same enthusiastic greeting, dominated by shouts of "*Vive le Gouvernement!*" "*Pas de Commune!*" Arrived opposite the entrance to the Hotel de Ville, they are surrounded by a circle of officers of the National Guard, to whom M. Jules Favre addresses a brief speech, congratulating them on the result of the day, on the attitude that had been displayed, adding that the support which the Government had received served to consecrate their election anew, and urging them, in conclusion, not to let the day stir up in them any feelings of anger or animosity. "In this great and generous population," observed he, "we have no enemies. I do not think we can call those who have been the cause of my coming among you even adversaries. They have been led astray; let us bring them back by our patriotism."

A sharp fall of rain now came down, and lent its aid in dispersing the assemblage more completely, and when the adjacent thoroughfares had resumed their accustomed aspect the National Guards marched off, battalion after battalion. In the evening, spite of the rain which fell at intervals, fresh battalions assembled on the Place de l'Hotel de Ville, to signify their thorough adhesion to the Government, and their unqualified disapproval of such manifestations as the National Guards of Belleville had lent themselves to at the instigation of such disappointed Republicans as Citoyens Ledru-Rollin, Blanqui, Félix Pyat, Delescluse, and Flourens.

The Defence Government resolved to prosecute M. Flourens for calling out the Gardes Mobiles under his command on the 10th inst., on a false pretence and with revolutionary motives. But we are now told that through the efforts of M. Rochefort the affair appears to be at an end. A letter from M. Flourens says that he never had the intention of marching on the Hotel de Ville. The prosecution against him has been abandoned.

The Swiss Minister in Paris has informed his Government that the members of the diplomatic body still in the city intend for the present to remain there. M. Ribot, an attaché of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Paris, who arrived at Valenciennes on Monday by the balloon "Jules Favre," has had an interview with the Administrative Committee there. After the usual declarations about the "patriotic and unshakable determination" of Paris, M. Ribot says that the Germans have been compelled to entrench themselves behind their lines of artillery, and that the plains are absolutely swept by the formidable cannon of the forts. The marine gunners hit the mark at 6,000 metres. At the present time a bombardment is impossible, as the forts present an impassable barrier to the besiegers. All kinds of arms are being manufactured at Paris without difficulty; provisions are abundant, and the city is victualled for a length of time. The population are expecting and wishing for an attack, which they intend to oppose vigorously. No tumultuous demonstrations were apprehended. The confidence in General Trochu is great. There is everywhere calmness, firmness, and resolution.

A correspondent of the *Times* has had a long chat with a worthy tradesman in the National Guard of Paris, whose views are probably those of a fair average of his brethren in arms. He does not at all relish his present warlike life, finds the ramparts very hard sleeping-ground (he has to spend one night in five upon them), even when he can get straw, and is very bitter about the vile liquor supplied at exorbitant rates by the cantiniers, liquor in which "he would not wash the hoofs of a good horse." He also considers it a "decidedly serious thing" to be under martial law. Two days ago a friend of his—a sergeant in the National Guard—was condemned to fifteen days' imprisonment, to say nothing of other punishments, merely for having taken a drop too much.

The *Débats* of the 10th states that national canteens have been opened at Paris for the supply of rations of beef gratuitously to the poor, and to the public at a fixed price. This is a voluntary movement, supported by subscriptions. Gratuitous recipients must be provided with orders obtained from subscribers.

During the absence from Paris of M. Gambetta, M. Jules Favre has assumed the office of Minister of the Interior. He has written a letter to the National Guard, thanking them for their patriotism.

A letter from Paris which has appeared in the *France* says:—"From seven to nine a.m. and four to six p.m., the National Guards are seen on the Boulevards, in the streets, and in the courtyards of the principal public buildings, learning drill and manoeuvres with the best will in the world. Every morning from six o'clock, fifty or sixty women collect before the butchers' shops and bustle and fight even for meat. The Government distribute every day the same quantity to the butchers. We are thus on rations, but without each person having his fixed share. Consequently some get much and others none at all. The closing of the theatres and the shutting-up of the cafés and wine shops at 10.30 p.m. tend to give the city a more sombre aspect than usual, but in the daytime there is nearly as much animation as in a time of peace. On Sundays the people throng the Boulevards in their best clothes, only more military caps and red-striped trousers are seen in a day than formerly in a year. Paris, I am sure, will hold out, but the provinces must come to its aid."

A few days ago, we are told, a deputation of 200 women, preceded by the drummers of the National Guard, presented themselves at the Hotel de Ville to demand that the Government would forthwith decree the immediate replacement by women of all the male assistants attached to the various ambulances. On arriving at the Hotel de Ville they found the iron gates closed in expectation of a visit from Major Flourens, at the head of his armed battalions from Belleville. The Amazons retired peaceably to their homes without either hanging an abbé or attempting to burn the Hotel de Ville. A public meeting was subsequently held, attended by the usual small number of strong-minded women and the usual large number of rowdy men determined to interrupt the proceedings. The business which took place in the intervals of personal encounter between the secretary, a male person, and various malcontents in the body of the hall, consisted principally in the discussion of a method of protecting female honour from the invader by means of a tube filled with prussic acid. This apparatus was styled by the inventor the "finger of God"—for which name, however, the secretary proposed to substitute that of "the prussic finger." Its operation is thus described:—"The Prussian approaches; you prick him with the end of the tube; he is dead. If several Prussians approach, she who has the prussic finger pricks them one by one, and remains in tranquil purity, having round her a circle of corpses." This recital was received with tears by the women and with laughter by the men. Fresh disorder soon afterwards ensued, and the meeting ended in a free fight.

CAPTURE OF ORLEANS.

A German official despatch from Versailles dated the 12th says:—"On the 11th the Army of the Loire was driven out of Orleans and across the Loire, after an engagement which lasted nine hours. Orleans was stormed. Upwards of 1,000 prisoners were taken. The loss on our side was comparatively small. The 1st Bavarian Corps, the 22nd Regiment of Infantry, and a division of cavalry, were engaged." The *Times* special correspondent supplies further particulars of this conflict, which are not quite so favourable to the German arms. It is stated that their loss was 1200. The attacking force consisted of the Bavarian corps under General von der Tann, and some Prussian cavalry divisions. On the preceding day he had completely routed the French divisions at Arthenay, capturing three guns and 2,000 prisoners. In Orleans the regular troops fled, and the Papal Zouaves, who stood their ground, were almost destroyed.

According to a Berlin despatch, the French defeat at Orleans is to be followed up by the occupation of Mans and Angers, which will separate the northern railways from the southern, and isolate Bretagne, where a crusade against the German heretics is preached by the clergy. Orders have been given to execute every Franco-freir not belonging to a regular body, commanded by officers.

General Lamotte Rouge, the incompetent commander of the Army of the Loire, has been cashiered, and replaced by General Aurellis Paladine. General Mazure, whom the Reds of Lyons got shut up in prison, has arrived at Tours, and has been appointed to the command of a division of the Army of the Loire, which is being reorganised and reinforced.

On the 12th, when the fall of Orleans became known at Tours, a great panic ensued. Hundreds of people were going away that evening lest the railway should be unable to accommodate them next day. Others were going about the streets saying that the Prussians would very likely be in the town in forty-eight hours. It was feared that the Government would have to remove to Bordeaux. Later accounts from Tours, however, state that alarm had subsided, and that the city was "greatly agitated by the news of the victories before Paris."

On the 14th General Bourbaki arrived at Tours, and received an enthusiastic reception. He is said to have been appointed to the command of the Army of the North, and will operate in concert with Marshal Bazaine. According to another account, General Bourbaki has arrived at Blois and taken the command there of the Army of the Loire. A *Daily News* telegram states:—"The French army is being reinforced every day on the left bank of the Loire. It is expected that a battle will take place on Tuesday at La Ferté St. Aubin. The Prussians destroyed the railway bridge at Beaugency, and then left the village, having crossed the Loire in several places."

There are reports in the telegrams that the Germans are going to Bourges, seventy miles south of Orleans. Bourges is one of the chief foundries and arsenals of France. A despatch from Tours of the

17th says:—"The Prussians still occupy Meung, but with an inconsiderable force. These are not supposed to have at present any intention to threaten Blois and Tours. It is believed possible they may push southward to Bourges."

CAPITULATION OF SOISSONS.

The fortress of Soissons capitulated to its German besiegers at an early hour on Saturday morning. The place was summoned nearly a month ago, and on the refusal of its commander to surrender a force was placed there at first to observe and then to invest it. When Toul fell a number of the heavy guns employed there were sent to Soissons, but the regular siege did not begin until Wednesday last. The town and works are dominated by heights, which a few years ago would have given no advantage to an assailant, but from which an enemy with rifled cannon can now fire into the place. The French guns at Soissons were numerous and well served, and the defence is described by the besiegers as obstinate. The town is sixty-five miles from Paris, and with Laon forms the line of the most advanced fortified position held by the Germans looking towards the north-west of France. The Duke of Mecklenburg and the besieging force entered Soissons on Saturday. 4,000 prisoners and 132 guns were taken. This capture gives the Germans a second line of railway from Chalons to Paris, which will at once be made available for traffic, an advantage which is the more important from the fact that the first line only goes as far as Meaux. It is thought at Lille that the army which besieged Soissons, and which is estimated at 22,000 men, with powerful artillery, will next attack the strong places in the North of France.

Neu Breischach, in Alsace, is likely soon to suffer the fate of Soissons. It has been invested since the 9th inst. On Sunday morning about 2,000 troops made a sortie under cover of a dense fog, but were driven back. The place is suffering considerably from the bombardment.

The regular siege of Verdun has commenced. A letter from before Verdun says the garrison are very prodigal of their ammunition, and fire on the outposts and patrols at a distance of 2,000 paces or more, but with scarcely any effect. The Germans avoid all unnecessary loss of life, and find no advantage in advancing their lines. When the sun sets some cannon-shots are launched from the fortress, the bells are tolled, the trumpets sounded, horns blown, and the skirmishers retire into the citadel. Verdun contains 12,000 inhabitants, and has been invested since the 26th September. It is garrisoned by 1,500 men, who have made some sorties, but at present the loss of life has been small.

It is stated that the Prussian Government has informed the Belgian Government of the approaching siege of the northern fortresses of France, Lille, Valenciennes, &c., and that the Belgian reserves will, therefore, be recalled.

THE WAR IN OTHER FRENCH DISTRICTS.

The 14th German Corps, under General Werder, is advancing from Upper Alsace against the Army of the Rhone, forming at Lyons and Besancon. Belfort is to be masked. The occupation of Epinal by the Germans is confirmed by General Werder, who announces from that place that his corps, after daily encounters with the enemy, has reached there, and established its communications *via* Lunéville. Hence it appears that the large quadrangular section of these mountains lying between those two places on the west, and Strasbourg and Schelestadt on the east, is practically in German hands, and freed from the operations of flying French corps, except such as are merely fragmentary bodies.

The army against which General Werder has taken the field consists of three cavalry regiments sent south before the investment of Paris, Algerian infantry, and some troops formerly stationed in western provinces. Their total is 16,000 regulars, independent of Mobiles, &c. On Sunday the Prefect of the Département du Rhône held a grand review of 80,000 National Guards at Lyons.

M. Gambetta has written a letter to General Cambril, who commands the Army of the Rhone, informing him of the appointment of General Garibaldi to the command of the irregular forces in the Vosges. He will also have under him one brigade of Mobile Guard. The General arrived at Besancon on the 14th. He was received by the prefect, the general in command of the division in the department, and the mayor of the town. The Mobile National Guard were under arms. Immense enthusiasm prevailed among the crowd. Garibaldi afterwards went to reconnoitre the environs. *La Patrie* says that Garibaldi's command will extend from Strasbourg to Paris.

M. Gambetta and his chief secretary have left Tours for the Army of the Vosges, which has been ordered to arrest the march of the Prussians on Lyons. M. Gambetta will visit the principal positions where resistance can be made, and his absence is not expected to exceed three days. M. Crémieux has replaced M. Gambetta *ad interim*.

It is supposed that the Prussians are about to invade Normandy, and even to push on as far as Havre, which is well prepared for defence. In anticipation of this eventuality the cattle and provisions of Normandy are being sent partly to England and partly to the centre of France. At Honfleur, Granville, and other places, the shipment of provisions to England had been prevented by the populace. At Honfleur there has been a riot in connection with the shipment of some cattle. There was a collision between the National Guard and some exasperated women. One man was wounded. A decree of the Tours Government forbids the exportation of cattle, meat, grain, &c., from all French ports.

There is no later news of importance either from Picardy or Normandy. St. Quentin, which lately repelled a Prussian attack, still remains in the hands of the French, though it will not long do so, now that Soissons has capitulated. Amiens and Rouen are preparing for defence. In the latter city, according to a recent despatch, the National Guard of Rouen, four battalions of which are already in the field, the Volunteers, and National Guards of the Departments, the regiments on active service, and the Mobiles, are prepared to receive the Prussians. By the fall of Rouen all communication between the north and west of France would be lost. Three thousand Prussians, under the command of Prince Albert, have arrived at Gisors, and will, it is believed, proceed to Rouen. At Dieppe vigorous preparations have been made. The marine soldiers' company is, it is stated, thoroughly prepared to take the field. They are all picked men, tall and strong, and most of them belonged to the Marine Infantry during their time of service.

The *Manchester Examiner* publishes a telegram from Rouen, dated Saturday, stating that the gendarmes have arrested and conveyed to prison a considerable number of France-tireurs and Mobiles charged with acts of insubordination.

A telegram from Lyons of the 13th says:—"Another attempt was made last night to get possession of the Prefecture and the authority. It was frustrated by the National Guard, and proved an entire failure. The city is tranquil."

The Red Republican movement, according to a French provincial paper, has extended to Dijon. The clubs there demand that religious congregations be abolished and the priests incorporated with the army, that the church bells and St. Bernard's statue be melted, that the churches and synagogues be closed, and that these and other religious edifices be converted into barracks. At Lyons, two National Guards who were obtaining signatures to a petition for the repeal of the decree debarring ecclesiastics from educational efforts have been arrested, and they were told that they had no right to petition. At Marseilles, M. Esquiros has prohibited the publication of any placard which has not been countersigned by himself. General Cluseret did not remain at Marseilles, but has gone into exile at Vintimille for having, he says, "done his duty towards the people and France."

The Prussians have about 4,000 men in the Beauvais district, with whom they have managed to hold that city, strip the considerable town of Gournay beyond of its provisions, and spread alarm half way to Rouen.

THE SIEGE OF METZ.

A telegram from Saarbrück states that the French sortie from Metz on Friday week proved to be a more serious affair than was anticipated. The French made a feigned attack in the direction of Jouy and a real attack in the direction of Thionville. Bazaine conducted the operations in the great struggle of that day, and was himself in the immediate front during the heat of the battle. The Prussians were surprised. The 1st Army Corps, comprising the 19th, 58th, and 57th Landwehr, defended the villages of Vany and Servigny. They fought well until reinforcements of the 28th, 29th, and 8th line regiments of the 7th Army Corps came to their support. The engagement commenced at three o'clock in the afternoon and lasted until dark. The real attack was made on the villages of Vany and Servigny, the French driving the Prussians out of them. The Prussians fought well until their supports came up, when there ensued a terrible *mêlée* in the streets, and after a hot fight of nearly four hours the French were driven back into Metz with fearful losses. The Prussian losses were thirty-one officers and 804 men killed, wounded, and missing. Both sides fought well until long after dark, and a very curious fact occurred. When the wounds were examined numbers of the Prussians had needle-gun wounds and the French wounds from chassepots, evidently showing that, in the dark, they had been firing into each other's ranks. The Prussians took many prisoners and two eagles. The *Daily News* correspondent speaks of the Landwehr and Fusilier battalions which "would not give ground" when they should have done so, but "were annihilated as they stood, the men with their backs to the wall and their faces to the foe."

On the 11th a French deserter from Metz was brought in to the Prussian camp. He had been lying out in the open air in the rear of Vantoux, and belonged to Lebouf's command. His report was that there is no bread and no salt in Metz. Bazaine had impressed into the ranks all the able-bodied civilians. Including these civilians and the garrison, the number of men under arms was 100,000. The duty was very severe, and the troops continually slept on their arms. Great disaffection prevailed in the army, and a mutiny seemed to be impending. Some of the men refused to join in the sorties on account of the risk, and it was difficult to force them to perform outpost duty. Much sickness, chiefly dysentery, bronchitis, and scurvy, prevails in Metz. The deserter's mouth was in a fearful state from scurvy. Men were deserting whenever the chance offered.

A later account—a telegram of the 16th—says:—"The rifle-pits and trenches before Metz are finished, and the batteries mounted with 12-pounders, throwing 24-pounder shells. The French fire incessantly. The Prussians return the fire into the camps. A *parlementaire* has come from Metz to Prince Charles and gone on to the King. The result is not known. Deserters are flocking in. I have just returned from several outposts. The commissariat is excellent. The epidemics are getting worse. The rinderpest is raging. The Prussians are getting under shelter."

They are, in fact, building wooden huts, and a number have been sent to them from Germany. One of the recent sorties was commanded by Canrobert. The Prussians are working hard at their second line of breastworks.

It seems that it was General Boyer, first aide-de-camp to Marshal Bazaine, who was sent from Metz. No definite result came of his interview with Prince Frederick Charles, and he proceeded by special train to head-quarters. A Versailles telegram announces his arrival there, and that he had had two interviews with Count Bismark. It is supposed that his mission is to negotiate for the capitulation of Metz.

A letter from Metz in the *Daily News* says the terrible weather of the last week has already begun to tell a tale on the health of the Prussian troops. Wagon-load after wagon-load of sick men goes down to Courcelles. Diarrhoea and bronchitis are the chief complaints. A letter in the *Times* from Metz says, "The investment of Metz may soon be termed the siege of Metz. The siege guns and other materials have arrived at Courcelles, and extra workmen are employed in making the first parallel and trenches."

THE FRENCH FLEET.

The French squadron is back in the North Sea, accompanied by flat-bottomed boats. It seems bent on mischief. The strength of the squadron which was observed off Heligoland is variously estimated at from seven to ten vessels, some say even sixteen. There is no doubt of the fact that German vessels have been chased. The capture of the Hamburg brig *Herzog von Cambridge* by the French is confirmed.

The news of another French fleet being collected at Dunkirk, combined with the unexpected arrival of the French squadron in the North Sea, has caused the Governor-General of Hamburg to order the immediate removal of the coast signals and the speedy restoration of the obstacles to navigation in the Elbe. Several English and German ships were wrecked off Jähde in consequence of the sudden removal of buoys.

Up to the 17th the coastguard stations at the mouth of the Elbe announce that no French ships had come in sight. The signals at Pillau, Bruster, Ort, and Memel, were again lit up on the 16th inst.

PEACE PROPOSALS.

A telegram from Berlin of the 16th says:—"General Burnside has returned from his second visit to Paris and gone to Brussels. He expects to go to Versailles again, and proceed to Tours, if desired. He took some suggestions to Paris from Count Bismark as to the terms of an armistice, which the Count thought reasonable under present circumstances. These suggestions made no impression. The Government in Paris is determined to continue fighting. Mr. Washburne means to remain in Paris."

An American ex-diplomatist in Paris, in good relations with the Government there, submits as a solution the proposition that Lorraine and Alsace, with Luxemburg, should be given to Belgium; their neutrality guaranteed by the European Powers, and he holds out hopes of the consent of France to the scheme.

A *Times* leader favours the idea of England, Austria, and Russia co-operating to urge on the belligerents some such offer as this:—"Let the strong places of Alsace and Lorraine be dismantled, and we will enter into joint and several guarantees with each belligerent to join either against the other in case one should make an attack upon the other without first submitting to our arbitration as neutrals the grounds on which such an attack is sought to be justified." The *North German Gazette* emphatically rejects the proposal.

A despatch of Monday from Brussels—from which many idle reports are sent forth—says:—"Rumours are current that a serious effort is being made afresh in favour of peace, based upon the cession of Alsace and the annexation of Luxemburg to Germany, and that preparations are being made for an interview between Count Bismark and M. Favre to-morrow."

THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

Dr. Siemon, chief surgeon of the Prussian Field Hospital at Verneville, near Metz, thus testifies to the services rendered by the Sisters sent out from the Deaconesses Institution, Tottenham:—

After the battle of Gravelotte my hospital was established at Verneville, a small village about two (German) miles from Metz. On the 27th of August I was surprised by the arrival of Dr. Lazeron, and four Sisters from the Deaconesses Institution at Tottenham—the latter had hurried to the spot to offer their aid to the wounded. The desire of these four Sisters was only to work, and how have they worked, and with what result? I must acknowledge that they have brought the most considerate forethought and the most unwearying patience to bear on all the cases committed to their charge. They have won for themselves, and for the institution with which they are connected, the lasting and loving gratitude of the wounded whom they have tended, and they will ever be held in honoured remembrance by the surgeons attached to the hospitals. All honour to them, and to the institution at Tottenham! I should add that two of the Sisters have, in consequence of their exertions, been attacked by dysentery, the present prevailing epidemic, and have suffered very severely.

When Dr. Lazeron arrived here with the Sisters, he brought a valuable collection of necessities for our hospital, and a rich store of nourishing articles for our sick and wounded. All these acceptable gifts were presented by friends in England, and with like contributions subsequently received through the same source, have had—in respect to the inmates of our hospital—a most beneficial influence.

Colonel Loyd Lindsay has been allowed to enter Paris, and take with him 20,000*l.*, as a gift to the hospitals for the National Society. He returned to

Versailles on the 15th on his way back to London. The same amount has been given to the German ambulances. He travelled through France without the slightest hindrance when his mission was made known, and has left a large force of horses, wagons, and material of every sort to come on more slowly, under Lord Bury's care. The fund of the National Society now amounts to over a quarter of a million.

The contributions from churches and chapels to the National Society continue to flow in. Amongst the most recent we observe the following:—New College Chapel, St. John's-wood, 47*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*; Junction-road Chapel (Rev. Wm. Roberts), 16*l.* 1*s.*; Hawley-road Chapel (Rev. E. White), additional, 11*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*; Rotherhithe (Rev. P. Jones), 14*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; Hull (Rev. R. A. Redford), 18*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; Brighton (Rev. R. Hamilton), 18*l.* 12*s.*; Halifax (Rev. B. Dale), 18*l.* 1*s.*; Rochford (Rev. T. Hayward), 12*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; Wakefield (Rev. H. Saunders), 26*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; 200 British schools have subscribed 546*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

The Anglo-American Ambulance has left Versailles for Orleans, where there are 3,000 wounded, both French and Germans.

Miss Pearson, the head of the lady nurse originally sent out of the seat of war under the auspices of the National Central Society, and her friend and companion, Miss M'Laughlin, who has lately been employed in nursing the sick and wounded at Sedan, Arlon, and Brussels, have been chosen to accompany a detachment from the International Society to work inside the walls of Paris. They hope to be able to enter Paris by the Seine, having a pass for the Prussian lines.

On Thursday an ambulance train, complete in all its arrangements, left Woolwich by steamer, under the auspices of the National Society. The stores shipped on board the steamer comprise eight ambulance wagons and twelve store wagons. The hospital will consist, unless a building be set apart, of twelve hospital marquees and twenty bell tents which will accommodate at least 200 patients. Provisions sufficient for 200 patients and 100 attendants for ten days accompany the ambulance, and a regular system of supply weekly will be organised by the society, with Havre as a basis. Lord Bury will meet the ambulance train at Havre, where he has been for some time purchasing horses and engaging drivers, and it will move forward without delay towards Versailles.

THE EX-EMPEROR'S RESOURCES.

The publication of the Imperial letters and papers found in the Tuileries is continued in the Paris papers. No. 40 of these papers contains a statement of the personal property of the Emperor; although we have been recently told that His Majesty, wedded to fatalism, had saved nothing. The editor of the paper says:—"From 1852 to 1866, and probably to the end of his reign, Napoleon III. had an open account with Baring Brothers, in London. The memoranda which announces the balance of this account from year to year, offer nothing remarkable—a number of cheques from Mmes. Walewska and de Cadore, various supplies and expenses in moderate sums. However, the memorandum of the 31st December, 1862, bears evident traces of the *coup d'état*—carrying to the Imperial credit a sum of 767*l.*; total, 36,370*l.* 16*s.* But the truly precious document furnished by Baring is a memorandum, left by mistake, doubtless, in the account of December, 1866. It shows that the Emperor had 937,000*l.* in various foreign funds."

The letter from Piétri, the ex-Emperor's private secretary, addressed to the London papers, affirming that His Majesty has no money invested in foreign funds, has produced a declaration from M. Max Pol, who says the position he filled in Paris enables him to say with certainty that the following is a list of investments abroad which have been made by the ex-Emperor:—

In 1854.—With Baring Brothers, of London	£4,000,000
In 1855.—Victoria Bank	6,000,000
In 1856.—With Kindlet and Co., of Vienna	3,000,000
In 1860.—With J. B. Jecker, of Mexico	14,000,000
In 1863.—In the Tunis Loan	3,000,000
In 1864.—In the Ottoman Loan	5,000,000
In 1866.—At New York, on mortgage, by Brown Brothers	10,000,000
In 1867.—In the Russian Loan, by Funder and Co., and Plitz, banker, at St. Petersburg	3,000,000
In 1869.—The Empress purchased an estate in her own name at Santander, through Don Trupita	3,000,000
In 1870.—The Empress purchased another estate at Alcoy, near Alicante	2,000,000
In 1870.—Placed with Berg von Dreesen, at Amsterdam, for investment	7,000,000

Total

£63,000,000
M. Pol says he knows of only one investment in the Rente made by Napoleon, and that was for the benefit of a "little lady" whose name he will not mention. The Tours correspondent of the *Daily News* says the ex-Emperor has real property at Lake Como, at Civita Vecchia, in Rome, and at Arenburg.

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

It is stated that Monsieur N— is a M. Regnier, who is closely connected with the Imperial household.

General Sheridan has left the German headquarters, and gone to Brussels, which is considered a sure sign that the reduction of Paris is not imminent. The *Daily News* correspondent in Berlin

affirms on good authority that the city will not be shelled.

M. Gambetta has announced his inability to give any audiences, on account of the pressure of business.

The Gallery of Battles and the apartments of Louis Quatorze, in the Palace of Versailles, have been transformed into hospitals in anticipation of coming events.

The communications between the southern part of France and the north and Belgium are interrupted in consequence of the movements of the Prussians, and a service of packets between Havre and Calais is being established, that correspondence may not be interrupted.

The statement of General Ducrot that he went as a prisoner from Sedan to Pont-à-Mousson, and escaped, is denied, and it is authoritatively stated that after giving his parole to report himself at Pont-à-Mousson, he was allowed to travel in his own carriage, and that he never did report himself.

General Leboucq is with the Marshals Bazaine and Canrobert, commanding a portion of the army in Metz.

Prince Frederick Charles is quite well again, and has resumed his duties as commander of the German army before Metz.

An English steamer, named the City, has been stopped by the French fleet off Heligoland. She was mistaken for a Prussian ship owing to the black and yellow colours of her funnel.

An American and two British vessels have been wrecked in the Bay of Jahde. The crews were saved.

The *Daily News* correspondent writes:—"Kehl has had a worse fate than Strasbourg. Not above five houses in the town remain intact. And what adds to the calamity is the fact that it was a piece of wanton and unjustifiable destruction. By reducing the town to ashes, the French did not retard by one day the progress of the besiegers, neither did they cripple them in the slightest degree."

Count Bismark has a penchant for Americans of a certain high stamp. He says, "I like self-made men. It is the best sort of manufacture in our race."

Monsieur Lairgerie, Archbishop of Alger, and Monsiegnur David, Bishop of St. Brieuc, have published pastoral letters, in the first of which they present to the Government half their stipends; and in the second they declare that they will summon the seminarists to the defence of the country.

Victor Hugo's remark in his last manifesto that Prussia wants to convert him, as a Lorrainer, into a German, is commented on by the Berlin correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette* as an instance of the French ignorance of geography. He was born at Besançon, consequently in Franche Comté, not in Lorraine. "Nobody thinks of making him a German. We gladly leave the eccentric screech-owl to the French, wishing them joy of his pompous rhodomontades."

Several of the Irish Ambulance Corps who were sent to Havre by the committee in Bolt-court, Fleet-street, returned to London greatly incensed at the deception practised on them. They state that they were all urged to join the Irish Brigade forming at Cherbourg. Some refused, but a great many went. Those who refused were sent home by the British Consul.

The canards long afloat about General Vogel von Falkenstein—at one time declared to be before Paris, then on his way to Paris with an army, then collecting an army on the Rhine to proceed to Paris—are officially settled as delusions. The general has never left his first command in the North of Germany, and there is no intention of transferring him from it.

Ablis is a town of 900 inhabitants just off the railway from Paris to Tours. A squadron of German cavalry and a company of infantry had entered the town and had taken up their quarters. In the middle of the night the townspeople, giving way to a patriotic impulse, attacked the sleeping men with the aid of France-tireurs, killed very many, and dispersed the rest. The next day the German general sent a force which burnt Ablis to the ground, and with it the nearest village from which the France-tireurs had come.

It is said that news has been received by way of Tunis and Malta that an insurrection is in full progress in Algeria. A movement has broken out in the south-eastern province of Constantine among the tribe Ulet Jacob, which has been joined by other tribes south of Schottel Dschelid, in particular by the powerful ones of Stoufa Ulet Tarn and Bety Amer. These reports have not as yet been confirmed. On the contrary, we learn from Marseilles that troops from Algeria are daily arriving. Gardes Mobiles have been sent to Africa to replace the regular army, the whole of which, 36,950 men, is expected to arrive shortly.

The *Precurseur d'Anvers* says:—"Nearly all Normandy is without cash. In order to restore business, a large number of towns and communes have created paper money, guaranteed by the municipal chest. At Rouen a decree of the Prefect has ordered the creation of bonds of 25, 20, 10, and 5 francs. At Evreux communal bonds exist of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 francs. At Rouen also a joint-stock bank issues bonds of 1, 2, 5, and 10 francs."

Among the prisoners taken near Orleans were many of a novel corps called "partisans," forming a bodyguard of the Tours Government.

The Germans expelled from France have received an intimation from the Government that their claims to compensation must be confined to actual losses, and must not extend to compensation for ill-treatment. Some of the Prussian districts have furnished the returns requested by Count Bismark as to the

injuries inflicted on them by France in 1806-8 by requisitions, fines, burning, and other devastations. The total amounts to 245 million thalers.

The *Standard* is authorised to give a complete contradiction to the statement contained in the letter of the correspondent of the *Daily News* at Tours, to the effect that the Empress of the French was cognisant of the manoeuvre by which General Bourbaki was induced to quit Metz.

General Fleury, formerly Ambassador at St. Petersburg, arrived at Cassel on the 11th, and was immediately received in audience by the Emperor.

The North German and Bavarian Parliaments will shortly assemble to vote another war loan.

Six hundred pounds of entrance fees were received in a few days from sightseers at the gates of Strasbourg Citadel. The charge for entrance was three shillings. The money goes to the poor sufferers.

A good stroke of work was done on the 6th at Mont Valérien. While the cannon of Mont Valérien were demolishing the works set up by the Prussians on the heights of Meudon, General Noel, who commands this fort, sent out 2,000 men armed with sacks and pickaxes. They proceeded under the protection of the guns of the fort to gather in an abundant harvest of potatoes. The 2,000 men returned in two hours bringing back their 2,000 sacks quite full. A herd of 1,500 oxen is said to have been drawn away from the Prussian camp, and brought to Paris.

Menotti Garibaldi arrived at Marseilles on Saturday.

The cattle plague before Metz and Paris has extended to sheep.

It is announced from Berlin that henceforth all the petitions to the authorities of Alsace must be in German.

The German armies in France at present amount to about 600,000 men.

The Prussians have abandoned the intention of bringing up to the siege of Paris the great 1,000-pounder Krupp gun. Its weight, sixty-five tons, including the carriage, would be too great a trial for the railway, and then it has never yet been fired, and might explode.

A letter from Lyons says:—"The fortifications of Lyons progress slowly; 3,000 workmen are said, by a figure of speech, to be 'at work' upon them. As they are the masters of their employers, they do just as much work as suits them, and pass the rest of their time smoking and sleeping; at least so I am informed by a local paper, for it would be as much as one's life is worth to make any personal investigation in that direction."

The *Standard's* Tours correspondent found the volunteers for the so-called Irish brigade at Tours in a state of great perplexity. The French authorities know nothing of such a brigade, and do not recognise it, and the Irishmen who go to Tours to join it are in great danger of being treated as spies. Serves them right.

M. Jules Delesvaux, President of one of the French civil courts, has shot himself at Paris. The secret papers of the Emperor disclose the cause of this suicide. For every political prisoner brought before him (and he never had the weakness to acquit one) he received a sum of money proportioned to the number of months' imprisonment and the amount of fines inflicted, and the political and social standing of the prisoner. When this became known Delesvaux put a pistol to his head.

The mission of M. Thiers to Florence is said to have been no more successful than it proved to be elsewhere. In other words, it has failed. He has been courteously treated, but the neutral Powers decline to interfere as parties to the war.

The Berlin manufacturers are busily employed in providing winter garments for the troops. Large numbers of woollen shirts are continually being made, as well as caps, furs, and clothes of all kinds.

In consequence of a permission granted by Baron von Thiele, quantities of chloroform, supplied by voluntary agency, have been sent into the beleaguered towns of France.

A Berlin telegram contradicts rumours as to the recall of Count Bernstorff from England.

Marshal Bazaine's brother stigmatises as calumnies the allegations that the Marshal had refused to recognise the Provisional Government. He is not a Marshal of the Empire, but of France.

(Continued on page 1002.)

The inhabitants of North London, especially of Kentish Town and Camden Town, are, it is stated, about to exert themselves energetically by organising a pressure upon the Metropolitan Board of Works, to secure Hampstead Heath to the public by a final and permanent arrangement with the lord of the manor.

LETTER BOXES.—The *Times* says:—"The substitution of Post Cards, thin, light, and uniform in size, for ordinary letters greatly aids the work of packing and carriage, but not that of delivery. It costs the letter-carrier on his beat as much trouble to deliver a card at a door as a letter, and, indeed, we are not without apprehension that the cards as now issued will be found more troublesome in the postman's hand, and, so to speak, less easily shuffled, than letters of the common sort. But, however, this may be, it is certain that nothing can facilitate delivery so much as letter-boxes in every door. If the letter-carrier can drop a letter into the door of the house to which it is addressed as easily as the letter itself has been dropped into the post-office, the economy of time and trouble will be almost incalculable."

Postscript.

Wednesday, October 19th, 1870.

THE WAR.

(From the *Times* Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Oct. 18.

At Orleans, on the 11th, 35,000 Frenchmen, one-half regulars, the rest Papal Zouaves and Mobiles, fought against nearly as many Germans. The French were in vineyards, rifle-pits, and earthworks. After six hours' defence, the French retreated so precipitately that they omitted blowing up the Loire bridges, which they had previously undermined.

In the engagement near Etival with the Lyons Army, 3,800 Germans defeated 8,000 French, chiefly regulars, with some Mobiles.

Large transports of provisions has been sent to the Germans from the Orleanais and Normandy, their conveyance having been greatly facilitated by the capture of Soissons, which gives the Germans an almost undamaged railway up to the gates of Paris.

THE ROYAL HEAD-QUARTERS, VERSAILLES, Oct. 18.

Official advices from Epinal state that the French Corps have fled, a portion to Belfort, but the greater part towards Dijon by rail. The population, freed from terrorism, manifests a very conciliatory spirit.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 18.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* says:—"General Burnside, on his visit to Paris, communicated the German conditions to M. Jules Favre, who considered them very acceptable. They were nevertheless rejected, but the reason is not known."

The *Daily News* correspondent at Tours writes that Garibaldi's command is not quite so extensive as was at first reported. The General is not at the head of all the irregular forces of France, but merely of those of the Vosges and a brigade of Mobiles.

M. Arles Dufour, the Vice-President of the International Peace League, has published an address to the English people on behalf of France. He urges that the war, according to the words of the conqueror himself, was directed not against the people of France, but against one man, and that, although that man has fallen, it is carried on more pitilessly than ever. He therefore asks, in the name of France, for the active sympathy of England. A day may come when misfortune may knock at her door, and then she will regret the friend and faithful ally she allowed to be crushed.

A terrible hurricane, in which 2,000 lives are reported to have been lost, has taken place on the North Coast of Cuba. Several vessels were wrecked.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The Corn-Exchange was fairly attended by millers, and the tone of the market was firm. Nevertheless, the business transacted was on a very moderate scale. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale, but the arrivals from abroad were large. Sales in both red and white produce were effected steadily, and the advanced rates of Monday last were thoroughly maintained. Barley was in moderate supply and request for malting samples; grinding qualities experienced a cautious sale, but prices were unchanged. The malt trade was not active, but prices ruled firm. There were large supplies of oats on the stands. The trade was dull, at Monday's reduced quotations.

A REMEDY FOR SEA-SICKNESS.—Dr. O. Rapin, of Grandson, in Switzerland, says that he has found that the nausea and vomiting produced by swinging and sea-sickness can be arrested by applying to the epigastrium a layer of wadding dipped in collodion. It should extend from the xiphoid cartilage to the umbilicus, and be left until it falls off. If the adhesion be imperfect, the application should be renewed. Several persons, he says, have tried this plan with benefit. The explanation which he gives of it is, that the action of the peripheral nerves is interrupted, just in the same way as the pain of calculi in the bile-passages or ureters is sometimes mitigated by the application of castor oil and collodion.—*British Medical Journal*.

A HOUSE IN POMPEII.—One house adjacent had evidently been in a state of repair when the volcanic storm buried it. Painters and decorators and cleaners were masters of the situation. The household gods were all in disorder, and the family, if not out of town, must have been undergoing that condition of misery which spring cleanings and other like inflictions inevitably entail. Painters' pots and brushes and workmen's tools were scattered about. Tell-tale spots of whitewash starred wall and floor. Such domestic implements as pots and kettles had been bundled up in a corner all by themselves, and the cook was nowhere. Dinner, however, had not been forgotten. A solitary pot stood simmering (if ever it did simmer) on the stove. And (start not, for it is true) there was a bronze dish in waiting before the oven, and on the dish was a sucking pig! all ready to be baked. But the oven was already engaged with its complement of bread. So the sucking-pig had to wait. And it never entered the oven, and the loaves were never taken out till after a sojourn of 1700 years! They have been cooking ever since the 23rd of Nov., A.D. 79. M. Fiorelli has them now in his museum at Pompeii, twenty-one of them, rather hard, of course, and black, but perfectly preserved.—*Leisure Hour*.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THE investment of Paris has not yet been turned into a bombardment—in fact, it is stated "on good authority" that the French capital will not be shelled at all. We sincerely trust it may be so. The Germans do not altogether lose by the delay in bringing up and placing their huge siege-train, which is soon to try the strength of the detached forts. The million and a half or more of people cooped up in Paris are gradually exhausting their stores of provisions, and beginning to feel the inconvenience of short supplies. They have implicit confidence that before starvation threatens them, France will come to their relief, and scatter, if not exterminate, the besiegers. They also are led to suppose that the constant fire of their heavy guns from the forts has greatly impeded the operations of the German artillerymen, and prevented the planting of batteries. If this be so, the Prussian despatches are silent on the subject. We have accounts from Versailles of the playing of the grand fountains before King William and his staff, and of the destruction of the Palace of St. Cloud by a shell from Mont Valerien, but no tidings of active operations in front of the defences of the great city. The French Republicans, it seems, do not care much for their palaces. It is stated by the Paris press that St. Cloud was set on fire to show the Germans that no consideration will be allowed to interfere with the defence of the capital!

If General von Moltke withholds, as is quite possible, the publication of aught that tells against the investing armies, it is certain that the Parisians have not as yet heard the thunder of the German heavy guns. Consequently they are getting somewhat impatient of the monotony and dullness of their lot. They are fed on astounding canards, but receive little actual news from without. Such excitement as they obtain comes from the sending away of the "balloon post," the laudable efforts of General Burnside to bring about an armistice—which have finally broken down—or the restless energy of the Red Republicans. MM. Ledru-Rollin, Blanqui, Pyat, Flourens, and the ultras, have made an unsuccessful attempt to establish themselves in power, under cover of a demand for the immediate election of a municipal commune to act with the Government of Defence. According to the picturesque account we have quoted from the *Times*, a huge mob appeared before the Hotel de Ville to intimidate the Government into submission. But battalion after battalion of the National Guard soon appeared on the scene, and without violence took possession of the ground and drove back the rabble, amid the jeers of the respectable workmen of the city. This remarkable demonstration seems to indicate that the revolutionists are only a small portion of the population; that General Trochu and his colleagues maintain an absolute ascendancy; and that, whatever be the issue of the siege, order will be preserved in Paris. The National Guard are really masters of the situation, and they have too much to lose in person to be able to afford resistance to the last extremity.

If the Parisians knew the whole truth, they would give up the hope of being relieved from without. The Army of the Loire, to which they have been trusting, has been routed by the Bavarian corps of the Crown Prince's army,

who have captured Orleans, are camped around the statue of Joan of Arc, and threaten the Delegate Government at Tours. General Bourbaki must be a real military genius if he should be able so to reorganise the Army of the Loire as to face the invaders with success. The capitulation of Soissons has opened a new railway to the Germans, and liberated troops to operate in Normandy, where there are abundant levies of French troops, but inadequate artillery and no directing authority. Apparently Marshal Bazaine has made his last desperate sortie against the army which is investing Metz. He cannot break out, his troops are mutinous, and, as his aide-de-camp has been sent to Versailles to see Count Bismark, it may be presumed that the Marshal is disposed to treat for a surrender. Should the Metz army capitulate, more than 200,000 Germans would be set at liberty, "and such an army, in the present state of the French forces in the field, would (as the *Pall Mall Gazette* says) be amply sufficient to go where it liked in the open country, and to do there what it liked. The progress of occupation, arrested by the two great entrenched camps, would at once commence again, and any attempts at guerilla warfare, which now might be very effective, would then soon be crushed."

M. Arles-Dufour, Vice-President of the International Peace League, and a true philanthropist, makes an appeal to the people of Great Britain "to enlighten the civilised world on the cruelty and danger of ruthlessly pursuing a war which, according to the words of the conqueror himself, was directed not against the people of France, but against the man who was to blame for provoking it." No Frenchman is more entitled to speak on this subject than the benevolent and pacific manufacturer of Lyons. But is not his appeal made in the wrong quarter? Should it not rather be addressed to the citizens of Paris? We have said that the persevering efforts of General Burnside to arrange the terms of an armistice have failed. If it be true, as is stated, that the new proposals were considered acceptable to M. Favre, Count Bismark must have greatly modified his conditions. The official journal of St. Petersburg says that "they were nevertheless rejected, but the reason is not known." This may be a misstatement of the actual fact, but it accords with what we know of the obstinacy of the Parisians founded on delusive hopes. One member of the Defence Government has already declared that the acceptance of any terms based on the alienation of a single foot of French territory would lead to an outbreak in the capital. It is here the real obstacles to a reasonable peace are to be found. An early surrender of Metz may yet save the Parisians from themselves.

There is in London an "Anglo-French Intervention Council," which gathers around it a good deal of the sympathy the artisans of the metropolis feel for the French Republic. This body has hit upon the notable scheme of a torchlight procession in Palace-yard this evening, to protest against the threatened bombardment of Paris. At a meeting held the other day to arrange the programme for this demonstration, a resolution was carried—"That should Prussia persist in her aggressive action, a strictly defensive alliance be concluded with France." It is easy to believe that many persons whose zeal outruns their discretion should not have perceived that such a policy could only mean war with Germany. But it is astounding to find a man of so much intelligence as Professor Beesly not only supporting such a resolution, but urging the sending over to Havre 20,000 British troops "to assist the Garde Mobile to form up, and otherwise assist France with food and munitions." No better reply could be given to this absurd proposal than the remark of Mr. Osborne that the Germans would eat up the 20,000 British troops for breakfast. The "Council" has shown more good sense than its learned adviser, and has reduced its demands to friendly "mediation"—a prodigious change of view. What good this torchlight meeting is, under such circumstances, to do to France, we are at a loss to understand.

The announcement of the betrothal of the Princess Louise, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, to the young Marquis of Lorn, is an agreeable episode in the gloomy news of the week. The marriage of a member of the Royal House with a subject is forbidden by law, except with the formal consent of the Crown. That barrier has been removed by Her Majesty, and the country universally applauds her good sense. The proposed marriage will do much to break down those caste prejudices which are neither necessary to the dignity nor to the popularity of the Royal Family, and is adapted to enhance the happiness of Her Majesty, who will now be able to retain her daughter about her person. The heir of the Dukedom of Argyll is surely as

worthy of alliance with the Royal House of England as a petty German Prince.

Though Rome is in possession of the Italians, no little trouble is likely to arise out of the acquisition. The Pope is laying all his plans, and taxing his utmost ingenuity, to make his position appear intolerable. Not satisfied with a bitter and querulous protest, he refuses all the facilities and attentions offered him by the new Government at Rome—while accepting their money—makes himself a voluntary prisoner in the Vatican, and has issued an Encyclical, announcing the suspension of the Ecumenical Council in the present situation of Rome. Some of the Governments of Europe appear to sympathise with His Holiness—at least, it is stated that in an interview with the Prussian Minister at Florence, Signor Venosta declared that his Government were all the more ready to agree to the acceptance of the Crown of Spain by Prince Amadeus, in consequence of "the attitude adopted by the other Catholic Powers of Europe."

BEWARE!

THE war between France and Germany is beginning to subject our powers of endurance to an almost intolerable strain. There is so little purpose, political or otherwise, in the continuance of hostilities, the basis upon which peace must eventually be concluded can be so little altered by any further expenditure of blood and treasure, and the determination of the belligerents to fight out their quarrel to "the bitter end" is so seemingly invincible, that more than ordinary danger exists that, with the best and most disinterested intentions imaginable, great mistakes of international policy may be committed. The Government of this country, especially, is assailed by very pressing temptations to depart from the position of strict neutrality which it has assumed, and through the intervention of an armed diplomacy, to put an end to immediate troubles by engagements carrying with them the seeds of future embarrassment. We have no reason to suppose that it inclines to quit the ground which it has all along held with remarkable firmness; but we are of opinion that its heavy responsibility will be sensibly lightened by any clear expression of judgment by the public press in favour of its neutral attitude.

False sentiment is, perhaps, the most insidious of the mischievous influences which Her Majesty's Ministers are called upon to resist. The all-but-universal assumption on the part of what is described as "civilised society," is that nations at war with each other are thereby elevated to a higher level than their neighbours, and that nations which refuse to take part with the belligerents, whatever may be their motive, undergo a disciplinary process of humiliation. The tone of the press, and of not a few public men, in reference to the position of the United Kingdom to the Franco-Prussian war, has been, even when pacific in its bearing, deeply tinged with Pagan sentiment. The people of Great Britain are spoken of with commiseration for being destined to watch the contest between France and Prussia without taking part in it. They are commended for their patience. They are exhorted to pocket, as best they may, the depreciatory taunts of both the combatants. They are consoled with as if Great Britain had come down to a second or third-rate position. All this tends to kindle in them a wish to quit the humble ground they now occupy, if only a suitable way should be opened for them. What does this tone of sentiment involve? Nobody doubts that history will condemn this war as amongst the most utterly senseless and the most sanguinary which have disgraced the now waning century. In its course it is imbruting both the combatants—making them deaf to reason, to humanity, to religion—exalting their self-will into a grim idol on whose altar everything is to be sacrificed, and in whose honour even children are to be made to pass through the fire—and laying waste, in its pitiless career, the prospects of European progress in letters, arts, science, morals, for the remainder of the century. And yet, because we do not join the belligerents in their work of slaughter and devastation, we half apologise for ourselves as though we were conscious of moving in a lower sphere than they. Say what we will, brute force is the god of our idolatry—at any rate, of theirs who most confidently profess to speak in our name.

When this false sentiment becomes associated with proposals the immediate object of which is peace, it is doubly fascinating and doubly dangerous. "Let us have no more of this war! It is an outrage on humanity. By a timely display of overwhelming force, let us paralyse misdirected force, and, since the antagonists will not come to terms, let us impose reasonable

terms on both." Well, at first blush, it cannot be denied, there is a show of benevolence in some such resolution. Is it, in reality, any more than a *show*? Is it right in itself? Is it just to all the parties concerned? In the abstract, no doubt, the use of power to prevent or check the misuse of power is justifiable. But we have to deal with international quarrels in the concrete. It has been suggested, for example, that England, Austria, and Russia should step between France and Prussia, and authoritatively bid them sheathe their swords. France's national dislike to part with any portion of her soil is to be humoured—and Prussia's demand for security against French invasions in future is to be satisfied. The fortresses on the Franco-Prussian frontier are to be dismantled, and the three neutral Powers are to bind themselves, in the event of either of the belligerents hereafter invading the other's territory, to take arms jointly in defence of the invaded. Does not the proposition look feasible, safe, generous? Does it not furnish as fair a specimen as one need look for of philanthropical diplomacy?

Aye, but what if neither France nor Prussia will put by their weapons at the bidding of officious on-lookers, or what, if provoked by foreign interference, they should make up their own quarrel, unite to defy the would-be mediators, and avenge their affront by occupying and dividing between them Holland, Luxemburg, and Belgium? At any rate, suppose—what is far from impossible—that the risk of involving England in a Continental war should become a reality? What then? we shall be asked. Is England, of all the States of Europe, never to risk war that she may maintain or restore peace? In reply, we ask, in our turn, how much longer are we to base our international policy on an assumption that we share a collective European responsibility? Either the theory of a "balance of power" is sound, or unsound. If unsound, a collective European responsibility is a figment. If sound, our recent policy of non-intervention has been merely a base evasion of the obligations devolved on us by Divine Providence. Have the order, the liberty, the peace, the religion, of any continental nations, or all of them together, been committed to our keeping? Is England to regard herself as appointed to do the duty of magistracy or police over Europe? Bear in mind that these and similar questions apply only to the use of *authority*. In that respect—in the imposition of any conditions requiring force to give effect to them—the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is legitimate and unanswerable. Governments are not answerable for the misdeeds of neighbouring Governments, nor have they any right to act as if they were, beyond the circuit of their own moral influence. It is a fallacy, grounded on a misconceived analogy of national to individual obligations, to assume that they are.

It should not be lost sight of, in the case immediately before us, for instance, that Her Majesty's Government could not enter into a treaty with Austria and Russia to guarantee Prussia against being invaded by France, and *vice versa*, without pledging to an uncertain and a very risky future material and moral interests quite as important in their bearing upon human progress and happiness as any in dispute between France and Prussia. We are only now beginning to disentangle ourselves from a disastrous Continental policy, and from the consequences it has entailed upon us. Every working man amongst us is more heavily weighted with taxation, is worse lodged, worse clothed, and worse protected against ignorance, disease, vice, crime and sin, than he might have been if our statesmen of bygone days had not fancied that the pressure of a "grand" morality necessitated their interference in every dynastic or revolutionary squabble between European States. English diplomacy used to be uncommonly free at the expense of English industry. But it is surely better to be just before being generous. We have no right to condemn our own people to bad schools, bad lodging, bad sanitary arrangements, fierce epidemics and high rates of mortality, that Frenchmen may be indulged in making war without liability to its usual penalties, or that Germans should be secure, in their own judgment, against foreign invasion.

No, we must give no more treaty guarantees in matters that do not concern us. Ministers, we are quite sure, will not allow a policy of intervention to be foisted on them. Public opinion would hardly ratify their work if they did. Happily, we have been kept out of the war till now—and now that an end of it visibly approaches, the folly of adding fresh elements of discord to those which already distract Europe, would be a wanton and gratuitous exemplification of political folly. On paper, a cauculation of a policy of guarantees may be

exceedingly promising to some minds. Wisdom, however, cries aloud from the depths of experience—"Beware!"

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE precepts for the election of members of the Metropolitan School Board, will be issued, it is said, in a few days, and the elections will very likely take place some time in the course of next month. London, it seems to us, is exceptionally fortunate in the provisions made in the Elementary Education Act of last Session, for the constitution of the governing body which will henceforth take charge of the educational machinery of the capital. We are glad to observe that, so far at least as the metropolis is concerned, a lively interest is taken in the preliminary process requisite to an efficient working of the Act. Each of the boroughs into which London is divided for Parliamentary purposes, is to return a fixed and proportionate number of members to the School Board, and already in each district we observe signs of unwonted activity. Conferences have been held by various classes desiring to secure as full a representation on the Board as their respective claims will fairly allow. At these conferences resolutions have been passed, and committees organised, with a view to get candidates returned at the coming elections, and, on the whole, a moderate spirit appears to have ruled the decisions arrived at.

We are not, of course, about to discuss the recommendations or the conjectural chances of the considerable number of gentlemen already nominated as candidates. One observation, however, forces itself upon everybody's notice respecting them. For the most part, they seem to have been brought forward chiefly, if not exclusively, on account of the qualifications they are known to possess for the posts they will be elected to fill. Several of them have made themselves eminent in connection with elementary education, and with public and private efforts to improve and extend it. A good proportion of them enjoy a social status above that which is commonly associated with municipal responsibilities in this city. Some are men of high culture—and the names of but few of them have heretofore been associated with extreme or intense sectarianism. How the voting will go is quite another question. The cumulative vote will introduce into the election an element of no little uncertainty. A daily contemporary suggests a sort of preliminary representative "census," for the purpose of arranging a list of the best and most conciliatory men of each of the great classes specially interested—say, for example, Churchmen, Protestant Dissenters, middle-class laymen who rank themselves with neither, and working men. We have not much faith in these attempts at composite action, and should put more trust in the good sense, and reasonable self-restraint, of each of the distinctive parties.

The fact is, the London School Board, if it is to do its work wisely and thoroughly, will demand a great variety of qualifications in its collective members—social, intellectual, and moral—and none of them in greatly predominating proportions. A one-ideal board, if we may make use of the expression, would be a great misfortune. For our part, we are constantly speculating with wonder as to the probable manner in which the Act will be practically enforced, so as least to jar upon the interests and adverse feelings which, in so mixed a population, it will be sure to excite. There will be no difficulty in providing the appliances of education, nor in suitably apportioning them, nor much, perhaps, in finding schoolmasters. Questions of some delicacy may spring up in connection with these, but, with patience and forbearance, they may readily be solved. The really difficult problems will come when you have got your schools and your teachers, your class-books and your rules. They will relate to the means to be taken for sweeping the children of the vast proletarian population of this metropolis into the schools, and for keeping them there long enough to civilise them. It will need all the sagacity of first-class statesmanship to obviate the hosts of obstacles, material as well as moral, which will meet the London Board in the prosecution of its object; and even if it secures first-class statesmanship for the guidance of its affairs, it may go wrong in the absence of that minute and intimate knowledge of the ways and susceptibilities, the temptations and the hardships of poor Londoners, which can only be obtained by those who have lived in daily intercourse and close communion with them.

We are most anxious, on this account, that "the working men," as they are somewhat

technically designated, should be represented on the Board by a fair number of their best associates. Members of the middle-class will do well, we think, to bear in mind that the children of the wage-earning class will constitute a large majority of the scholars in these public elementary schools, and, in common justice, that class ought to be able to speak their ideas and wishes on all questions that may arise touching the management of them in the metropolis. We commend their foresight and prudence in the rules they have laid down for their own guidance in the coming elections, and we earnestly deprecate any action on the part of middle-class electors which may have, or may be designed to have, the effect of keeping a due number of fitting representatives of workmen of the metropolis off the School Board.

THE SUFFERINGS OF THE FRENCH PEASANTRY.

THE working men of London, who seem to be ready so thoughtlessly to rush into war with Germany to avert the bombardment of Paris, can hardly be aware of the terrible consequences which might result from the acceptance of their policy by the British Government. It is quite possible that, in the course of such a conflict, they might be obliged to suffer from such a collapse of industry as is now witnessed at Paris and in all the large French towns, and that our agriculturalists might be reduced to the sad condition of the peasantry in the invaded districts of France. No better antidote to their misdirected protests could be recommended than a perusal of the tales of woe which reach us from every district of North-Eastern France. And seeing that English intervention is, under the peculiar circumstances of this war, absolutely impossible—and is at length admitted to be so by the English partisans of the French Republic—our artisans could not give a better or more practical turn to their sympathy with the French people than by subscribing to the fund for relieving the distress of the peasantry in the districts overrun by the invaders.

The urgent appeals for help which have been made by the villages of North-Eastern France induced the benevolent and enterprising conductors of the *Daily News* to originate a subscription on their behalf in this country. The public promptly responded to the claim made upon them, and so considerable a sum has already been secured that a gentleman was forthwith despatched to the suffering districts with seasonable relief. The first report of Mr. W. H. Bullock, the unpaid agent of the Fund, appeared in the *Daily News* of Monday. He describes the whole country round about Sedan as having been desolated by the war. The condition of the population of one village—which he speaks of as the type of hundreds—is thus described:—"There reigns at this moment sad want and distress everywhere—not yet absolute dearth, but plain unmistakable famine is advancing with fearfully rapid strides, with pestilence in its wake. The famine may be stayed by help from without, and, if we can stay the famine, the pestilence, it may be hoped, may be stayed too. In some villages," he goes on to say, "an almost clean sweep has been made of every conceivable article of food, clothing, or furniture; the savings-banks have, of course, stopped payment in Sedan, where those of the peasants who made any provision for the future had deposits. The cattle-plague is carrying off those of their cattle not carried off by the Prussians. Their pigs and poultry have vanished; typhus and small-pox are ravaging the wasted villages; the cloth-weaving, which is combined with agriculture, in the villages about Sedan, is at a standstill; there is no seed to sow; their unthreshed corn was either consumed by the German cavalry, or wantonly strewn about the fields for the bivouacs." The reader may easily fill in this fearful outline. Mr. Bullock has found, in the course of his inquiries, that in all this district not merely the comforts, but the necessities of life are wanting. With the means at his command he cannot afford to supply the sufferers with such essentials as mattresses, coffee, and sugar, but he is obliged to confine the expenditure of the fund placed at his command to the purchase solely of bread, lard for cooking the potatoes which yet remain, blankets, and warm flannel clothing for women and children, especially for the little children, who are perishing for want of it.

"A month hence," says Mr. Bullock, "it may be too late." Amid such wide-spread misery a sum of 3,000*l.*—the present amount of the subscription—will not go far, although the Fund is disbursed without a farthing of expense of any kind. We cannot doubt that more

general assistance might be forthcoming if the present Fund were merged in a more extensive organisation. But the matter is too urgent for delay. Our people have, with their accustomed liberality, subscribed more than a quarter of a million to the Sick and Wounded Fund, a sum adequate—perhaps more than adequate—for that specific object. This new sphere now opened to the charity of neutral onlookers, who are happily free from the calamities of war, is almost unlimited. There are, as correspondents of our newspapers often report, scores of villages round about Metz, the condition of which is even more distressing than those in the neighbourhood of Sedan. It is impossible to think without a shudder of what may be the woes and privations of a considerable section of the French people during the coming winter, and at a time when all classes, even the most wealthy, are overwhelmed by a common calamity. Even if peace were to be at once concluded, terrible suffering must be the lot of these unhappy villagers far and wide. But if, as seems too likely, the war is to go on, thousands will, we fear, without external help, be doomed to die of starvation and cold. The energy of Mr. Bullock has already been the means of giving relief in bread to at least a dozen villages, in all of which, he says, "I am already getting known, and have been richly rewarded by their most touching thanks for what little your subscribers have enabled me to do for them." The *Daily News* Fund commends itself to all who, in the midst of comfort and security, can sympathise with the starvation and misery which have come upon this hapless population, through no fault of their own. We congratulate our contemporary upon the honour of having started so benevolent a movement for saving life while the destroyer is abroad, and trust that it may be generously sustained by the British people, who have so often listened to the claims of those who are desolate and ready to perish.*

MANAGING LONDON.

A CELEBRATED statesman is reported to have said that he would rather start on a voyage of exploration in the Arctic regions than attempt the government of London and the Londoners. This was some twenty or thirty years ago, when the system of parochial jobbery, mismanagement, and inefficiency seemed to have reached its culminating point in the metropolis, which, although one of the largest, most densely populated, and wealthiest cities in the world, had its general affairs, especially those connected with drainage and other important matters, conducted in a manner that would have disgraced the poorest country parish. Incompetency, ignorance, and petty jealousy everywhere reigned supreme. There was nothing like order; all was chaotic confusion. If an important public metropolitan improvement was required, it could not be effected, because there were numerous conflicting interests to be consulted and mollified; while in case of dispute between conflicting jurisdictions, there existed no central authority to which to appeal. It may seem strange that the Londoners should have so long tolerated a system which gave them a minimum of benefit at a maximum of cost; but their apathy was due in some measure to their inveterate dislike of centralisation, especially if there exists any chance of the reins of authority falling into the hands of Government officials. But although local self-government is in many respects a good thing, the principle may be carried a little too far. So long as London remained split up into a multitude of small, independent, and refractory parochial fractions, utterly incapable of working harmoniously together, it was impossible to effect the great sanitary and other improvements which the increasing extent and population of the metropolis rendered absolutely indispensable. At last, awakening to the necessity for something being done, the Londoners gradually overcame their dislike of centralisation, and permitted the formation of that organisation known as the Metropolitan Board of Works. The establishment of this new body constituted the commencement of a new era in the history of metropolitan government, and bade fair to inaugurate a more promising state of things, which might ultimately render London a city worthy of its position as the capital of the British Empire.

* Cheques for the Fund in behalf of the distressed peasantry of North-Eastern France should be crossed to the London and Westminster Bank, Temple-bar Branch; and Post-office orders should be made payable to W. K. Hales, 20, Bouverie-street, E.C.

But the Board of Works had a most difficult task before it from the very outset. The fable of Hercules and the Angren stable might fitly be applied to it and the labours to which it had commenced devoting its energies. The members had to rectify the shortcomings of former generations, and to achieve results which appeared simply impossible. The whole of London, with its house accommodation for two and a half millions of inhabitants, had to be provided with a proper system of drainage; the river Thames purified and rendered wholesome by the interception of the enormous quantity of sewage which rendered it a vast and pestiferous ditch; while the increasing amount of street traffic necessitated the formation of new thoroughfares in various parts of the city. Never before in this country had a public body been called upon to perform tasks of such paramount importance or magnitude as those which were entrusted to the newly created Board of Works. The only parallel was to be found in the case of Paris, under the "improving" hand of M. Haussmann. Consequently it was but natural that the Londoners should experience some misgivings with respect to the success of the experiments. There was plenty of promise, but how about the performance? On all sides, the Board found itself confronted by obstacles of the most formidable character, but the extensive powers with which it was armed, ultimately enabled it to overcome all opposition. It was also fortunate in obtaining the services of really practical men to assist in guiding its labours. The completion of the Metropolitan Main Drainage system, the comparative purification of the Thames, and the construction of the Victoria and Albert Embankments will always be regarded as the principal achievements of the Board, but it has accomplished many other results, scarcely less important, and which must sooner or later exercise an important influence on the health and social well-being of the English metropolis.

But the chief value of the new body consists in its forming what may be termed the cradle of future metropolitan self-government. The necessity for some great local governing authority like the Board of Works, is significantly illustrated by the manner in which its assistance is continually being invoked in all parts of the metropolis. Is a suburban common about to be enclosed, the Board of Works is implored to help in defeating the work of enclosure. Is a new thoroughfare to be made in some crowded neighbourhood, the Board is expected to help in defraying the cost. Do noxious factories exist in any locality, the Board is requested to aid the parochial sanitary authorities in procuring the suppression of the nuisance. And so on, to the end of the chapter. Thus it is that the Board of Works is gradually becoming the custodian of the rights and interests of the Londoners. In nothing is this more observable than in the question of metropolitan open spaces. Not an inch of ground in the vicinity of the metropolis can now be enclosed without incurring the active opposition of the Board. It has rescued Tooting and other commons from the hands of the spoiler, and is eager to assist in the preservation of Epping Forest. Next year it will have secured to the use of the people, the open spaces known as London Fields, Plumstead Common, Hackney Downs, Blackheath, and similar places. It is also ready to assist in forming new parks, such as those in Finsbury and Southwark. All this is a step in the right direction, and cannot fail to assist in promoting the health and social improvement of the masses closely pent up in the great city. It shows what might be effected were London to be placed under the control of a really efficient and comprehensive system of self-government; for after all, the powers possessed by the Board are far too limited to enable it to effect a tithe of the many reforms and improvements which its success has rendered more than ever desirable, and which come naturally within the scope of its operations. Whether the Board will acquire the further powers necessary remains to be seen. A few months more will decide whether it will become the ruling authority over the whole of the metropolis, or find itself merged in some other body, organised on a broader and more directly responsible basis.

But, in any case, the Metropolitan Board must always be regarded as the active pioneer in the path of improved metropolitan government, and the practical manner in which it has illustrated the gigantic results possible from concentrated municipal labour and energy in the metropolis, as shown in the successful completion of the Main Drainage scheme and the Thames Embankment, affords a lesson which cannot fail to exercise considerable influence on the future social history of the metropolis. Not a few Londoners are even now anxiously looking

forward to the time when the whole of the metropolitan water and gas supply, street-cleansing, police, paving and conveyance systems shall be under the control of one central authority. A step in this direction was made when the Board of Works assumed charge of the London Fire Brigade. This was in 1866. At that time there were seventeen fire-engine stations in the metropolis, exclusive of two floating engines on the river. There were also a number of parish fire-engines, nearly all of which were utterly useless for practical purposes. The number of fire-engine stations is now fifty, besides three on the river. Many of the new engines have been substituted for the worthless affairs formerly belonging to the different parishes. The Board has also taken upon itself the working of the fire-escape system. It has ninety-one fire-escape stations, and the number is being continually increased. In 1866, the number of firemen was 130; it is now 377. As at present in operation, the London Fire Brigade system is said to be the best and most efficient in the world. Of course, it cannot prevent the outbreak of fires, but it does all that can be done to ensure their rapid extinction. But it must not be assumed that the powers enjoyed by the Board have been readily obtained. It has been met at every step by the necessity for obtaining special Acts of Parliament, so jealous have been the legislature, the nation, and the metropolis, of the new organisation becoming too powerful or influential. More than fifty Acts of Parliament furnish the powers under which the Board exercises its authority. Indeed, the numerous acts and official interpretations thereof form quite a library in themselves. But the obvious need for preventing any undue multiplication of these Acts, constitutes of itself an additional reason for the speedy settlement of the question of metropolitan government. When that is decided, we shall be on the threshold of reforms and changes, compared with which those effected by the Metropolitan Board of Works, stupendous as they are, will appear small and insignificant. London, properly self-governed, may become the model city of the civilised world.

THE WAR.

(Continued from page 999.)

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

STATE OF FEELING IN THE NORTH OF FRANCE.—The special correspondent of the *Telegraph*, writing from Amiens, Oct. 12th, says:—"I have just been talking to some large landowners of this Department; and in no country in the world could there be found men more utterly devoid of that gasconade which is so offensive to the Anglo-Saxon ear. They mourn and lament the present condition of France; they denounce the régime that has landed them in their present ruin; but they say at the same time that, having played the game and lost it, they ought to pay the stakes, and not make bad worse by a certain, yet utterly useless, sacrifice of life. The siege of Paris they look upon as simply a question of time, and as a further humiliation for France when it is over, with the additional misfortune of so many more valuable lives sacrificed. And, if men only dared to speak out, believe me there would be many more who would maintain, as my friends did, that it were far better to make peace now, than have to submit a few weeks hence to far more humiliating terms than Bismarck now offers. I am perfectly certain, from all I hear, that were a plebiscite now taken in France, and if 'yes' meant to prosecute the war, while 'no' signified that even with the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, peace should be concluded, a most overwhelming majority would vote 'no.' But there is no use disguising it, men cannot now speak as they think. He who talks of 'peace' is at once set down as a traitor to the cause of France, by the unthinking multitude; and, unfortunately for the country, if not the most numerous, the latter are the loudest and 'tallest' talkers at present."

A CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL TROCHU.—The special correspondent of the *Telegraph*, writing on the 6th, says:—"In a conversation which General Trochu had last night with an intimate and trusted friend, the Governor of Paris expressed himself as follows:—"It is impossible to exaggerate the activity and intelligence which the different commanders of portions of our defensive works have displayed during the last three weeks. When the Prussians first drew near to our outside forts, they could have carried many of them without difficulty, and without material loss, by a *coup de main*. I feel pretty confident that they cannot carry any of our outer works now without a regular siege. On the other hand, I cannot conceal from myself that everything which they have done since they invested Paris appears to indicate that they mean to starve us out by long and weary investment, not to batter down our walls, or try to set Paris on fire by shells. They are conducting the siege upon principles and tactics which, of all others, are most trying and unfavourable to the make and character of Frenchmen. If they had shelled

the forts, or if, with long-range guns, they had rained projectiles from the heights of Belleville into the town, they would have made every man, woman, and child in Paris an homogeneous unit. But, by wearing out our patience through inaction, and by letting us feel the slow pressure of a long-continued siege, they are forcing Frenchmen to fight under the conditions of warfare which, of all others, are least favourable to the temper of my countrymen. Nevertheless, we have two months' provisions in the town, and most of our families have enough to last a fortnight longer. Within two months many things may happen to work in our favour. At any rate, if Paris holds out for two months longer, the provinces cannot say that they have not had plenty of time to come to our rescue. If they have the will to come, Paris, by her tenacity, will at any rate show them the way."

LETTERS FROM GERMAN SOLDIERS.—The German soldiers, in their letters to their relatives, some of which find their way to the papers, describe the alternate privations and enjoyments which they encounter in the camp before Paris. "You don't know," writes one of them, "how well off you are at home. We have happily got through the wretched rainy season, and now enjoy the finest autumnal weather. Rain is the greatest enemy of the soldier in the field. I have already told you what horrid weather we experienced, and it is now ascertained that some of our people have become quite deaf in one ear on the side where they slept on the wet ground amid a steady downpour." At one deserted villa on the road to Paris over 1,000 bottles of brandy, he says, were discovered, besides quantities of wheat, oats, and bacon. These were walled up, partly in the cellar and partly in the garden. One night he and his comrades passed in a stable with 100 cavalry horses. "We dragged beds, mattresses, and pillows into it, and slept beside our horses as soundly as the gods. While writing, I have close by a dozen bottles of capital wine, tobacco, and cigars, all which one relishes famously after long privations and after a supper of unpeeled potatoes, dug up and cooked by ourselves, with a morsel of bread." Another writer speaks of the first view of Paris as making the soldiers forget all their fatigues and privations. "The recollection, however, of brave departed comrades, to whom it was not allowed to experience the fortunate issue of the contest, makes many silent tears run down the cheeks of the weather-beaten warriors. People have no idea how tender a soldier's heart is at such a moment, spite of all exertions to keep up the rough shell with which the war has coated them. Paris makes on me the impression of a *fata morgana*, for now perspective presents its finest aspect to us, while the reality may fall considerably short of it. We are much favoured by the continuous fine weather, for what terrible ravage dysentery and typhus would otherwise commit among us!" A third letter says:—"The days are very tolerable, but it affects the health of our troops to bivouac for weeks without intermission under the open sky. If the days are very fine and warm, the nights bring icy coldness into our badly-warmed limbs, for watch-fires are strictly forbidden. Two men lie on each mattress within the trenches, and by degrees we get comfortable. Every new-comer adds some additional comfort; several chairs, instead of a child's stool, then a table, then nails to hang up swords and cloaks with, lastly a Chinese lantern. How long this will last we, of course, do not know, and do not think about, for there is unlimited confidence in our superiors."

MOLTKE AND BISMARCK.—The *Times* correspondent at Versailles, *apropos* of the playing of the grand fountains before the King and his staff, thus sketches two of the chief characters of the war:—"You see that tall thin man without any moustache or whiskers, his hands behind his back—the officer with the greyish hair, very short, and a face out with many fine lines, his head slightly stooped, the eyebrows pronounced, and the eyes deep set? There is the man whom the Junkers of Berlin called 'the old schoolmaster.' What a lesson he has taught Austrians and French!" "He looks very grave." "He is always so. But there you see striding through the crowd a very different looking person." Yes! who is that frank, smiling major of dragoons? He comes this way—the officer in the white cap and yellow band, dark blue or nearly black double-breasted frock coat with yellow collar, taller than the tall officers around him?" "That is Count Bismark." There is a stir wherever he goes—caps touched and hats raised. He makes straight for a little knot of Americans—General Burnside in plain clothes, General Sheridan, General Hosen, and General Forsyth in uniform, but without swords. You hear his laugh above the murmurs of the crowd, and the wave of sound in which his name "Bismark" is borne. How heartily he shakes hands with them, buoyant and free, elated as some officer might be who had just won promotion on a battle-field. All the world knows the soulless likeness out of which even photography has failed, however, to take all impression; but one must have actual experience of the peculiar vivacity, or rather penetration, of his glance as it is emitted from under those tremendous shaggy eyebrows, to measure the power of his face—the one grand, overwhelming force of which is, to my mind, intrepidity—an immense, audacious courage, physical and mental, and a will before which every obstacle must yield or be turned."

A FOUNDLING.—About the middle of last month, when the German head-quarters were at Meaux, the King occupied the front rooms of the episcopal palace at that place, while Count Bismark's apartments

were at the back of the buildings, on the ground floor, looking out on the spacious garden. The Count one evening returned tolerably late from an interview with His Majesty, to his bedroom, and was about to go to rest, when what was his surprise, on removing the coverlet, to discover a little baby in his bed, well wrapped up in linen clothes. A paper lay beside the child, with the following words written upon it, "My husband fell at Sedan; I am without bread, and despair has compelled me to part with my only child; the boy bears the name of Vincent." The unhappy mother had committed suicide, and was found hanged next morning. Count Bismark had the baby sent on to Berlin, where it will be well taken care of.—*The Continental Correspondent.*

PARIS AND THE PRUSSIANS.—The special correspondent of the *Telegraph* writes:—"I do not think Paris will be a very nice place for any Prussian, or even for any stranger, after the war is finished. Probably no words of warning from my pen are needed to admonish King William, the Crown Prince, Count Bismark, or General von Moltke, that they had better not, in Lord Clarendon's words, be 'prodigal of their persons,' if ever they ride into Paris, or take up their abode within its walls. They will do well to look closely to the windows which overhang the streets through which they pass, and to see that no Ravallac or Balthazar Gérard endeavours to avenge the disgrace of France by one well-directed ball. In one of my previous letters I told you that the *Combat*—a new journal, which is the organ of M. Félix Pyat—had offered a *fusil d'honneur* as a reward to the first Frenchman who 'touches' King William with a bullet. I fear that, in the present excited state of the French mind, it would seem quite as laudable an act if King William were shot in cold blood by an assassin, as if he were shot on the field of battle by the rifle of a soldier. In the present feverish and superheated temper of the French mind, after a war which has brought such shame and disgrace upon France, there is unusual danger lest the rash act of Wilkes Booth should find many would-be imitators in Paris. It is because I believe that every good and honest heart in France would, in its calm moments, bitterly regret the degradation of such a crime, if perpetrated by a French hand, that I cannot forbear adding this word of caution."

THE FUTURE OF STRASBOURG.—In Germany money is voted or collected everywhere for supplying the most urgent wants of the inhabitants of Strasbourg. But this is only meant as a beginning. It is a settled thing with every German with whom you converse that every destroyed house must be rebuilt, whether it be possible or not to exact damages from France. If this be not possible, the future Reichstag must find the money, and the taxpayer will not grumble at it. Thus everybody speaks at present: But the intentions of the people rest not even there. The cathedral shall not merely be repaired, but completed, like the cathedral of Cologne, and they mean to set to work as soon as peace is restored. To collect the necessary funds, with the mood the people are at present in, cannot be difficult, for there is little new work to be done, except to add the second steeple. Why did the French never dream of this? They will soon discover that this neglect will cost them the last love of the citizens of Strasbourg. Municipal patriotism and pride are great at Strasbourg, and they turn very much towards the cathedral. The destruction of the citadel by the slow but continuous fire of the Baden artillery on the other side of the Rhine, is only the preparation to the definite removal of the citadel. It will never be rebuilt. But what then? It cannot be allowed that the city, at some future siege by the French, should be cut off from the right bank of the Rhine. Consequently, the fortifications of the city, now open in face of the citadel, must be extended on both sides till they reach the Rhine. And the circle can only be completed by Kehl being fortified as *the de pont* on the German side, the fortress including the bridges over the Rhine. Now this constitutes a huge area inside the fortifications, and thus Strasbourg will be provided with immense building ground, of which it was sorely in need. Strasbourg, with Ruprechtstau, which belongs to the city, now contains 90,000 inhabitants, but 30,000 must be added living in parishes of suburban character, not belonging to the city. And then there is Kehl. With plenty of building ground in central situations and along the various branches of the Rhine, there can be hardly a doubt that the city, peace being restored, will rapidly increase. For one who knows the Germany of the present day, and her rapid development, it is not saying too much that the living generation may yet see Strasbourg a commercial and manufacturing city of a quarter of a million of inhabitants and more, sitting right and left of the Rhine, the proud metropolis of its upper course, and the great mart of exchange between a free-trade Germany and a free-trade France; and that in spite of the fortifications and the sad experiences to which they have led.—*Letter in Daily News.*

AN INTERVIEW WITH GARIBALDI.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* writing from Tours, October 12th, gives the following account of an interview with Garibaldi the previous night:—"Arrived on the landing of an entresol, I knocked several times at the door of a little room in which in the morning I had seen several officers and others waiting to be received. Getting no answer, I tried another door, scarcely visible in the extreme darkness. Presently a ray of light came through the keyhole, and the door was opened by a young Italian in his shirt and trousers, with one foot in a stocking and the other bare, who seemed greatly astonished to see strangers.

The General's valet de chambre, for such he proved to be, was evidently undressing to lie down for the night on a mattress in a small ante-chamber. All hope of seeing the "Lion" that evening vanished from my mind. However, I said, "General Garibaldi?" "The General has just gone to bed," was the answer. "Oh! then I am extremely sorry to have disturbed him, but he gave us an appointment for eight o'clock, and it is now striking that hour." Upon this the servant disappeared into an inner room, whence in less than half a minute he returned, saying that the General had meant eight o'clock in the morning; that he was in bed; but that if we did not mind going into his bedroom it would give him much pleasure to receive us. Of course we did not hesitate to accept such an essentially private audience with a great man. We were ushered in, the servant placing two arm-chairs by the bedside. The first thing that struck me as I saw Garibaldi raise his head from his pillow, graciously to salute a lady and hold out his hand, was that he looked much younger than I had fancied. I was familiar with his countenance from an engraving in my possession, from a painting by Fagnani, which I always thought, and now know, to be the best portrait of him in existence. None of the photographs give a good idea of the expression of his face. I never saw a man of his age look so little careworn. Goodness and innocence combined with great intelligence beam in his features. That exceeding charm, that fascination of manner which everybody who has written about him attempts to describe, came up to and even transcended my expectation. He received us with the most unaffected grace, and placed us at our ease at once. An American correspondent more practised in the art of "interviewing" than I am, would probably have asked the General plump what the Government here had said to him, and what he thought of the prospects of the war. But my disposition led me to refrain scrupulously from putting any question to him which it might be embarrassing to answer. Inquiring after Ricciotti, the General told me that when last he heard of him he was in Corfu; that he had come away from Caprera so suddenly that his sons did not know of his going; but he was sure that when they knew he was in France they would both follow him. He said it was not true, as the papers have reported, that any red shirts were in Tours, and that even the members of his legion who were awaiting him at Chambéry were not yet equipped. He spoke with affection of common friends in England, and his bright eyes brightened with a brighter ray as he said he believed he should be joined by some English volunteers. At the end of about a quarter of an hour I rose to take leave, feeling scrupulous about depriving an invalid of his rest. But he detained us a good while longer after I was on my legs. He smiled assentingly at the observation made that one of the most marvellous things in this marvellous year was to see him a guest in a French Prefecture, and in the very town where six months ago Pierre Bonaparte was tried and acquitted. When at length, we retired, he thanked us repeatedly for our visit in the most flattering terms. As Garibaldi sat up in bed in a flannel shirt (for he had no night-gown) I could see that his arms were emaciated and his fingers somewhat contracted with rheumatism, but he did not look to me in bad health. His light brown beard is far less grizzled than most of the portraits of him represent."

THE EMPEROR'S NOVEL.—Among other papers found at the Tuilleries is the draft of a novel by the Emperor. It is a story intended to illustrate the advantages of the Imperial system. The general character of the plot will be gathered from the following passage which has been translated by a correspondent of the *Daily News*:—"M. Benoit, an honest grocer of Moon-street, went to America in 1847. After having travelled in the region which lies between the Hudson and the Mississippi, he returned to France in April, 1868, having passed nearly nineteen years abroad. He had heard distant rumours of what had occurred in France since 1848, without being able accurately to estimate these changes. Some French refugees told him that France groaned under a despotism, and that he would return to find degraded and impoverished that country which he had left in so flourishing a condition under the reign of Louis Philippe. Our friend Benoit accordingly arrives at Brest in the Transatlantic packet. He enters the harbour full of prejudice, regrets, and apprehensions. 'What are these vessels?' he asks of the first sailor he meets, 'so black and ugly compared with the beautiful sailing ships I left behind me.' 'Why, these are the armour-plated vessels, the invention of the Emperor. Clothed in iron, they are proof against shot; and this transformation has destroyed to a certain extent the naval supremacy of England.' 'Possibly; but I regret our old ships with their masts and picturesque sails.' He sees the crowd going towards the mayoralty to the elections. Astonishment at universal suffrage. Astonishment at the railroads which permeate France; also at the electric telegraph." The Imperial romancier now conducts his hero to Paris, and shows him the embellishments of the city and its fortifications. M. Benoit goes to buy certain articles; he is amazed to find them so cheap, owing to the commercial treaty. He fancied there were writers in prison; an error. No disturbances; no political prisoners; no exiles. And so the simple Benoit is carried about, until he is convinced of the beauty and perfection of the Imperial system."

THE KING AMONG "ALL THE GLORIES" AT VERSAILLES.—Letters from Versailles in the German papers state that on the 10th the King of Prussia visited the picture-galleries, the Crown Prince, who had been a frequent visitor, conducting him. The

King stopped a long time before the Crimean and Italian (1859) battle pieces. General Moltke, on seeing the fine portraits of MacMahon and Bazaine, remarked:—"We Prussian Generals have rendered us signal military services as these gentlemen, but people will never place memorials of us in a Valhalla at Berlin." Two days previously His Majesty reviewed the troops posted on the north of Paris, and from the terrace of St. Germain had an extensive view of the whole valley of the Seine. He visited the old chateau, which the Emperor Napoleon converted into a museum of Roman and Gallic antiquities, the study of which occupied him during the composition of his "Life of Cæsar." The collection is a valuable one, but the restoration of the chateau is incomplete, and it is not now likely to be finished.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Some of the papers assert that, after due investigation of the circumstances under which the Irish Ambulance Corps has been organized for service in France, the Government has come to the conclusion that those of the men who have been engaged for the service, who are British subjects shall be proceeded against under the Foreign Enlistment Act.

VALUE OF PROPERTY IN PARIS.—The *Economist* has made an elaborate calculation of the value of the property in Paris which would be exposed to destruction if the city were attacked. The result of the estimate, which is believed to be far below the mark, and has been made with reference to the withdrawal of property which must have been going on in expectation of a siege, is as follows:—Value of buildings, 154,350,000l.; value of furniture and other contents of dwellings, 77,175,000l.; value of stock in trade, 77,175,000l.; total, 311,700,000l. We may take this as the minimum value of private property in Paris destructible in a siege.

ENGLISH SYMPATHY WITH FRANCE.—A sub-committee of the "Anglo-French Intervention Committee" met on Wednesday night at their committee-room in Hatton Garden to arrange the details of the torchlight meeting which it is proposed to hold to-morrow night in New-Palace-yard. It was proposed to submit a resolution to the meeting demanding that the English Government should form a defensive alliance with France against the further prosecution of the war by Germany, but this only found favour with several of the French and Irish present, and, after three hours' discussion, it was abandoned in favour of a proposition to request the neutral Powers to call a conference for mediation. The meeting is to be addressed by various speakers from the tops of four-wheelers. At the close of the meeting a procession will be formed, and, preceded by bands and banners, will march round Buckingham Palace, thence to the Prussian Embassy, where three groans are proposed to be given for the German Government; thence to the French Embassy, where the procession is to stop and give three cheers.

Foreign and Colonial.

GERMANY.

The Württemberg Diet is convoked for the 21st instant. The Ministers Herren von Mittnacht and Sukow, who were the plenipotentiaries of Württemberg at the Munich Conference respecting the future constitution of Germany, will leave in the course of the week for the German headquarters at Versailles. The Bavarian plenipotentiaries, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of War will join them on the way.

A Berlin telegram announces the death of Herr Twisten, whose strenuous opposition to the Government some years ago subjected him to a Government prosecution and imprisonment.

The refusal of Count Bismark to release Dr. Jacoby has caused great dissatisfaction in the Liberal party. The following is given as Count Bismark's reply to Dr. Jacoby:—

FERRIERES, Oct. 2.—Your favour of the 26th ult. was laid before me yesterday. I am not able to exercise any direct influence on the decision of the Governor-General of the coast district, as his sphere of action is outside my official competency. For the explanation of the motives of his military measures for preventing demonstrations which encourage the enemy in his resistance to our forces, the Governor has intended to lay certain documents before His Majesty which are not yet before me. As soon as the same have come to hand, I shall be glad if the conviction respecting the circumstances which they produce in my mind allows me to promote the fulfilment of your wishes.

The *Cologne Gazette* reports the rinderpest to have broken out in no less than forty-two places in the Upper and Lower Rhenish districts. It has also, according to the same authority, appeared at three places in the province of Brandenburg.

ITALY AND ROME.

General La Marmora, Lieutenant of the King of Italy, arrived at Rome on the 11th, and was loudly cheered by the crowd. He has addressed a proclamation to the Romans, in which he says that their plebiscitum splendidly crowns the national edifice. He hopes that foreigners will form an equitable judgment of that great event. He declares that the Government wishes that the Pope should exercise with the dignity of a sovereign, and with full and efficacious freedom, all his rights as the supreme head of the Church. If, he adds, this feeling is sacred, the national feeling is sacred also, and both

ought to be reconciled. He lastly makes an appeal for the maintenance of order and tranquillity.

The King of Italy left Florence on the 15th to be present at some military manoeuvres in the north. On the same day Mazzini reached Florence on his way to Rome. The Italian Parliament, which meets on the 18th November, will be dissolved after voting the Roman annexation and disposing of the budget and general elections. The coupons due in January on the Pontifical Loan will be met by the Italian Government.

A Royal decree has been issued abolishing the customs line between the Roman provinces and the rest of the Italian Kingdom. The decree also introduces other arrangements in reference to the finances, coinage, official salaries, and pensions.

A telegram received by the *Telegraph* from its correspondent in Florence says that it is expected that a Papal Bull will be published decreeing the dissolution of the Ecumenical Council, and that the document will be issued for the purpose of agitating the Catholic conscience. The pretext for dissolving the Council will, it is stated, be that it could not conduct its deliberations with full liberty.

The *Bien Public* of Ghent, says that before the plebiscitum at Rome the foreign ambassadors accredited to the Holy See informed the Pope that they would ask their respective Governments for instructions as to the course they were to pursue. Those instructions have come to hand since the plebiscitum, but the ambassadors remain at Rome, and according to the Ghent journal, this state of things proves that the Powers do not recognise the facts which have been accomplished in the Papal States. The Italian Government, it is added, will request the recognition of these facts in a circular note which it is about to address to the European Cabinets.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Mazzini has been released from prison at Gaeta under the recent amnesty.

A KING FOR SPAIN.—A telegram, dated "Florence, Friday night," says:—"A report is current, and generally credited, that Prince Amadeus of Italy (the Duke of Aosta) has accepted the offer of the Crown of Spain, with the consent of King Victor Emmanuel."

PETER'S PENCE.—Some of the Belgian papers counsel the discontinuance of the collections of Peter's pence, which, on an average, amounts to one million of francs a year for Belgium. They ground their advice upon the facts that the Roman budgets have come to an end with the temporal power, and that the Pope now enjoys the splendid pension of 250,000l. a month, which, though pretending to be kept in captivity, he has deigned to accept from the Italian Government.

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE died on Wednesday at Lexington, Virginia, of congestion of the brain. His symptoms were not considered dangerous until Monday night. The telegram announcing his death says:—"He died calmly, and in full possession of his reason, expressing a sure faith in religion. His death causes great grief throughout the South. Business in Virginia has been generally suspended, and the press, with few exceptions and regardless of politics, extol the exalted purity of character of the deceased." General Lee was in his sixty-fourth year.

THE KU-KLUX-KHAN IN THE UNITED STATES.—The testimony taken before the Supreme Court of North Carolina proves beyond the possibility of further doubt that there is a large and powerful Ku-Klux organisation in the State, and that its aim is, by intimidation and violence, to get possession of the county and State government and nullify the Reconstruction Acts. Four persons connected with the organisation have already been committed by the Court for murder, and forty-one others for high crimes. Information from private sources has been received in Washington giving a frightful account of the state of a large portion of Alabama. Ku-Klux-Khan, it is said, ride about day and night, flogging and murdering persons obnoxious to them, and no attempt is made to put a stop to their outrages.

TURKISH ARMAMENTS.—The *Levant Herald* says the Porte has decided upon converting a large number of its Springfield and Enfield rifles into Remingtons, and several thousand breech-pieces on this latter system have been purchased in Vienna. As soon as the conversion has been effected, the new arms will be served out to portions of various regiments with a view to test their practical value on a large scale. The military and naval preparations are being pushed on at Tophaneh, Zeitoun-bournou, and in the arsenal, in all three of which large numbers of hands are working extra time. In addition to the arms and munitions which are being rapidly manufactured in these establishments, a considerable contract for cannon on Krupp's system has been given to a house in Vienna, whence several batteries of mitrailleurs have also been ordered, in addition to those already purchased in Belgium and America.

SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMONDS.—The last accounts from the South African diamond fields state the number of persons on the territory to be nearly 3,000, and that their encampment on the Vaal River extends over two miles. Some system of self-government has been established, but gambling is a predominant vice. The native population is too small to excite apprehension. According to estimates, the value of the diamonds already found has amounted

to a total of 100,000l. or 120,000l. Compared with the regular annual yield from Brazil this is a very moderate amount, and, as diamonds during the last twenty years have greatly increased in value, the South African supply, unless it should assume much larger proportions, is not likely to have any effect but that of partially checking the constant tendency to an advance in prices.

CHINA AND HER MISSIONARIES.

The following is the concluding portion of the communication from the Rev. Griffith John, of Hankow, which, though somewhat long, will be found to contain a very masterly description of the religious views of the Chinese, and a forcible statement of the claims of missionaries, and the policy of the Home Government in relation to them, in that Empire:—

Such is the religious condition of the Chinese. With them the State and the family are all in all; the Church, nothing. This being the case, the domiciliation of missionaries in the interior is not likely to create a religious panic in any part of the empire. Probably there is not another country in the world, in which a new religion, simply as a religion, would give less offence than in China. Here there are no deep religious convictions to be wounded; no fanatical zeal to be encountered. Perfect indifference is the principal barrier (a most formidable one to the progress of the Gospel) which China would present to any system, that had for its sole aim the spiritual and eternal welfare of the people.

There are two or three points, however, on which the Chinese are thoroughly in earnest, and the handling of which requires some care. The worship of deceased ancestors is one of these. This is the most important religious duty a Chinaman can perform. To neglect it is regarded as unfilial, the greatest of moral delinquencies. This ancestral worship is a subtle phase of idolatry. Being idolatry, as undoubtedly it is, it must not be admitted into the Christian Church. The Jesuit missionaries were decidedly wrong in regarding it as a civil and not a religious observance, and advocating its toleration. Still there is much about it that appeals powerfully to our best feelings; and to deal with it wisely and successfully requires sympathy and discernment on the part of the missionary. A wise man will not indulge in wild declamations on this subject; he will not inveigh against it before large heathen audiences; neither will he regard it as the first point to be urged on the attention of an inquirer. An enlightened and conscientious abandonment of this practice must be preceded by clear views on, and a firm faith in, some of the fundamental verities of the Gospel. The history of the past, however, shows that the sinfulness of even this apparently innocent form of idolatry, may be pointed out in such a way as to carry conviction, without rousing the passions of men, or creating the least excitement. If the missionaries continue to act wisely, as well as faithfully, no troubles will spring up from this source.

The Kung-Shuei, or wind and water, superstition holds a powerful sway over the Chinese minds. It treats of the influence of position in respect to houses and graves. Right position is conducive to health, wealth, longevity, and all other blessings relating to this life; wrong position endangers all. The opening of a mine, the construction of a road, or the erection of a lofty building, upsets the existing arrangements, or interferes with the genial currents, and thus throws the Kung-Shuei of a whole district or neighbourhood, as the case may be, into confusion. It would require many pages to describe this geomantic science. Let it suffice for the present to state that there never was a more contemptible medley of craft and superstition, than the Chinese are firm believers in it, and that it forms one of the principal obstacles to the introduction of Western skill, appliances, and improvements into China. In order to avoid giving offence on this score, missionaries residing in the interior will require to build houses and chapels in the native style. Most of the Roman Catholic establishments in the interior have nothing to distinguish them outwardly from native buildings. With the introduction of railways, telegraphs, and other foreign inventions, the Kung-Shuei philosophy must collapse and vanish. The missionaries, however, who desire to prosecute their labours peaceably in inland cities cannot afford to do more than throw the light of religion and science on the delusion.

Another real difficulty connected with our work is that which arises from the altered relation of our converts to the heathen customs of the country. As Christians they cannot subscribe to the annual festivals observed in honour of the gods; and this is a source of great irritation to the heathen, as well as trouble to themselves. They break no law in refusing compliance, but rather the reverse. Still, custom demands it, and their conduct in forsaking the old paths, and declining to contribute towards the support of heathen institutions, is regarded as strange and perverse. When difficulties of this nature spring up, everything depends on the local magistrate. If he is inclined to respect the treaty rights of Christian converts, they are easily settled; for

one word from him is sufficient to set matters right on this point, and to insure complete protection to the injured party. The case of the blacksmiths in Wu-Chang, already described, is a fair example of the kind of troubles to which our converts are exposed, and the ease with which they can be managed whenever and wherever the magistrates choose to exercise their power.

There is one point more which deserves special attention. If the Chinese Government is indifferent to religion, it is by no means indifferent to the State; and when it persecutes it is generally for State reasons. The principal reason why it is so intolerant of sects is, that it suspects them of concealing a political aim under the garb of religion. The Roman Catholics are feared and hated on this ground. Nothing has been done hitherto by either the British Government or the missionaries to awaken a suspicion of this nature. There is no reason why they should do anything in the future. Let the missionaries continue to exhort their converts to be subject to the higher powers, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake; and let the British Government regard the missionary enterprise in its true light, and continue to request that those who teach and those who profess the Christian religion shall enjoy immunity from persecution. Let this be done, and the spiritual nature and tendency of the work will soon evidence itself, any lurking suspicion which may still exist will be dissipated, and no objections on political grounds will ever be raised to Protestant missionaries.

The above, I trust, will suffice to show that the extension of missionary operations into the interior need not give rise to serious complications; and that no *true* interests, whether political or commercial, would be prejudiced by it. There is not a particle of evidence to substantiate the surmises of Sir R. Alcock, or to justify his gloomy forebodings. The experience of the last ten years goes right against his position, and upsets all his theories. Nothing has occurred to make it appear that the insertion of the "Toleration Clause" in the Treaty of Tientsin was a mistake, or to call for its expansion. The missionaries have done nothing during this period to forfeit their title to the respect and confidence of the British Government.

It is a great mistake to suppose that the missionaries desire to be forced upon China at the cannon's mouth, or to see England go to war in order to demolish the ancient faith, and overthrow the peculiar institutions of the Empire. That the Roman Catholic missionaries look at the question in this practical and business-like way cannot be denied. The Protestant missionaries (with perhaps a few exceptions) regard the matter in a very different light. I believe that most feel as I do on this point; and, for my part, I would rather retire from China altogether, than have a lot or part in such a crusade. The "inevitable gunboat" and the cannon have nothing to do with the work of converting men; and the messengers of Him who would not permit His disciples to command fire to come down from heaven and consume the Samaritans, or to draw the sword in defence, ought never to call these carnal weapons into play in their attempt to disciple the nations. If it were true that the Gospel could be introduced into inland cities and towns only at the point of the bayonet, the path to be chosen by the missionary, and the policy to be adopted by Christian Governments, would be plain enough. But I maintain that there are no real grounds for alarm on this score. The Chinese, as a people, are not fanatically opposed to Christianity. The missionary may dwell among them, and carry on his work openly and successfully, without creating the faintest religious excitement. The Chinese Government is not specially opposed to missionaries as a class. The nature of their repugnance is manifest to all. Whatever may become of the missionary question, the anti-foreign spirit and prejudices of the official and literary classes will have to be encountered and vanquished by the Western Powers. The difficulties which may be expected to emerge from the very nature of the missionary enterprise are neither numerous nor formidable. The protection of the person and property of the missionary does not mean war with the Chinese Government; and the exertion of any moral influence in behalf of the missionary work by the British authorities in China may be put forth effectively, without giving rise to unpleasant complications.

Of course, I am not blind enough not to see that the value of this moral influence must depend on the general policy of the English Government in China. If that be timid, truckling, and vacillating, the moral power will be nil. If, however, it be what it should be—decided, straightforward, dignified, and just—the moral influence will be a felt power in the land, and, if rightly exerted, a source of unspeakable blessing to the people. It is to this moral power that I would appeal as a missionary, and it is on it that I would rely for official assistance in time of need.

Before closing this letter, permit me to make one or two remarks on the general policy which the English Government should pursue in China. I suppose it is too late now to raise the question as to whether the position of England in China is defensible on certain moral principles. England has doubtless forced her commerce on China. The China trade, however, is increasing so rapidly and wonderfully, that the conservation of friendly relations with the Chinese Government

is becoming every day a matter of more and more vital importance to England. It seems clear, too, that England is bent upon obtaining access to the interior of this great country, and determined not to rest satisfied till she sees all the markets of this vast population opened to her merchants. It is highly desirable that all these grand results should be realised. But there are obstacles in the way; and it is necessary, in order to adopt an enlightened policy, to know where they lie, and what is their nature. The people of China are as ready to buy as the foreign merchants are to sell; the difficulty is to get at them, and that for the simple reason that the Chinese Government stands like a dead wall between. No change whatever has taken place in the sentiments of the Government respecting foreign relations. It is thoroughly reactionary in its heart, and any display of liberalism on its part is simply the fruit of a salutary fear. The British Government will do well to bear this fact in mind. England is indebted to conquest alone for the position she holds in China, and she can maintain it, for the present, only by the sword. Any privileges enjoyed by British subjects in China have been won by the logic of victorious arms, and are preserved and upheld by prestige. Abandon this prestige, and these privileges will have to be given up one by one, or another war will have to be waged in order to restore it. Our relations with China have never rested on any basis of reciprocity, and she is not prepared for the admission of this principle even now. Let England tell China that she is resolved to abandon the sword for reason, to yield where she cannot convince; and to wait patiently the convenient season—let her do this, and all friendly and peaceful relations will be at an end. China fears the power of England, and so far respects her. She knows that there is something terrible and irresistible in her wrath, and is so far yielding to her demands. This being the case, England can maintain her footing in China only by impressing her rulers with the stern and solemn fact—that she is, not only able, but determined and prepared, if necessary, to maintain it at the mouth of the cannon. These may appear strange words, as coming from the pen of a missionary. But it must be remembered that I am only stating facts, and that my object in doing so is simply to prevent future wars and other calamities.

No credence should be given to any representation of difficulties by the Chinese Government. Its own exclusive spirit and aversion to everything foreign is the grand difficulty with which the genius of progress has to contend. The Great Wall of China has been rightly considered as a characteristic and a symbol of this spirit. The rulers still desire that this great country should stand apart, like a great world within itself, from the rest of the globe. It is grievous to them to find that they are not "The heirs of all the ages, in the foremost files of time," and to be constantly reminded of the uncomfortable fact, that China is not "all under heaven." What they long for, above everything, is to see themselves imparadised once more in a state of primeval ignorance and isolation. They have discovered that they are watched, and they are feeling anxious and restive under the great eye of the mighty West which is now resting upon them. In order to obtain their desires, they will misrepresent facts, pervert and simulate to an unlimited extent, and that without the slightest restraint or compunction of conscience. Nowhere in China are foreigners more securely and peaceably domiciled than at Peking. But read the following. "The Chinese authorities," writes the Earl of Elgin to the Earl of Malmesbury, "contemplate the permanent residence of a foreign Minister at the capital with more aversion and apprehension than any of the other innovations introduced by the Treaty of Tientsin." The Commissioners write to Lord Elgin: "The habits and disposition of the people of the capital are different from those of the Eastern and Southern provinces. If foreigners reside in Peking, it certainly will come to pass that in their movements something will create misgiving and surprise on the part of the multitude; any slight misunderstanding will be sure to beget a quarrel; and great indeed would be the injury to our country were some trifling cause of difference to attain serious dimensions." Again, "In sum, in the present critical and troublous state of our country, this incident would generate, we fear, a loss of respect for their Government in the eyes of the people." So cogent did these and other reasons appear to Lord Elgin, that he promised to submit it as his opinion to Her Majesty's Government that "it would certainly be expedient that Her Majesty's representative in China choose a place of residence elsewhere than at Peking." The subsequent treachery of the Chinese Government knocked this foolish concession on the head; and the experience of the last ten years shows that there had not been the slightest necessity for making it, and that, if it had not been reversed, it would have been a fruitful source of mischief.

The English Government will do well to bear in mind, too, that nothing is to be gained in China by waiting. The exercise of patience will gain nothing here. The Chinese can wait as long as you like, for to them time is nothing. The perpetual cry of the Chinamen is that of the geologist—give us time. Give him time, and nothing is impracticable. But, remember, it must be time unlimited. It is a well-established fact that things

never mend in China by waiting. The glorious past is the cynosure towards which all the eyes of the rulers and scholars of China are directed; and delay in this land simply means retrogression. They hold that "antiquity ought to be made teacher," and that the "modern is not equal to the ancient." What ground is there for expecting a people such as the Chinese are, to make a single concession of importance of their own free will? It would have been easier to obtain certain concessions ten years ago than five years ago; easier five years ago than to-day; and much easier to-day than it will be ten years hence. Time is an element of great importance in the contest which is now going on in China between ignorance and enlightened barbarism and civilisation. Yield the point to the Chinese, and the reign of darkness will continue for years, nay, for ages to come.

There is one point more—a point of immense importance—and it is this. In dealing with the Chinese, a position once gained, or advantages once acquired, should never be abandoned, except on the grounds of justice. The Government of China cannot regard such a step in any other light than that of a confession of weakness, or a proof of blindness. In every case it is looked upon as a triumph of Chinese diplomacy, or an indication of a change of fortune in favour of Chinese ascendancy. Moreover, it cannot but embolden them to pursue their anti-progressive, anti-foreign policy with renewed alacrity and vigour, and thus become a root of bitterness and contention, and a means of hastening another crisis of bloodshed and carnage.

The New Convention, though by no means all the Chinese Government could wish, must be regarded as thoroughly retrogressive in its spirit and aim. It is marvellous that Sir Rutherford Alcock should believe it to be any important advance on the Tientsin Treaty. I feel confident that the shrewd Chinese do not look upon it in that light. To say nothing of the fiscal alterations proposed, which yields to the Chinese a vastly larger sum than is granted by them, the Convention falls miserably in what its framers regard as the most important advantage gained by it. The advantage consists in the total exemption of all foreign textile fabrics, in the nine provinces in which there are treaty ports, from all taxes and charges whatever on the payment of import duty and transit dues together to the Custom House at the time of importation. But how can this be considered an advantage far in advance of the objects contemplated by the Tientsin Treaty, which provides that, "It shall be at the option of any British subject desiring to convey produce purchased inland to a port, or to convey imports from a port to an inland market, to clear his goods of all transit dues by payment of a single charge. The amount of this charge shall be leviable on exports at the first barrier they may have to pass, or, on imports, at the port at which they are landed; and on payment thereof a certificate shall be issued which shall exempt the goods from all further inland charges whatsoever." Thus the payment of two and a half per cent. in commutation of all barrier dues by the importer was optional under the old treaty; it is compulsory under the new, and that without any reliable guarantee that the goods so charged shall be protected from further exactions. The old treaty provides that such goods should circulate freely throughout the empire; the new only stipulates that they shall circulate in nine provinces out of the eighteen, and thus leaves out some of the wealthiest and most flourishing markets which China presents. The old treaty obtained for the British merchant the right of travel and settlement in every part of the interior; the new restricts and burdens this privilege with conditions at once vexatious and humiliating. These great rights and privileges, secured by the Treaty of Tientsin, but forfeited by the New Convention, are of vital importance and lasting interest. Compared with these, the few concessions obtained by the Convention are not worthy of being taken into consideration. That these stipulations have remained inoperative does not make them the less binding on the Chinese Government, or justify the English Government in abandoning them. It is sheer folly to speak of a subsequent treaty as an important step in advance, which makes the violation of the preceding one its starting point, and actually sanctions the restriction or abandonment of its most important provisions. This Convention, if ratified, may do some good, but it will do more harm. Better adhere to the old treaty, and try and ensure a more faithful observance of existing privileges, than accept this new contract. In the interest of China, as well as England, it is devoutly to be hoped that the British Government will pause before swallowing this sop.

The triennial Handel Festival will take place next year at the Crystal Palace. Sir Michael Costa will be the conductor.

One hundred and thirty-five tons of diseased fish have been seized during the past three months in Billingsgate Market. The greater portion was seized in August.

A correspondent of the *Times* writes from Newark that the local post-office authorities there have received no notice of the alleged permission given by the Postmaster-General to send invoices free if stamped with a halfpenny stamp. In consequence every invoice so sent has been charged 2d., as if unpaid.

Literature.

SOME RECENT NOVELS.*

The three novels we class together are not so associated by us because of likeness, but rather because of contrast. They differ as widely as it is almost possible for works of one class to differ from each other. Mrs. Oliphant devotes her whole skill to the development of character, only weaving the most simple fabric of plot to keep her various *dramatis personæ* from actually sliding away from each other; Mr. Collins is almost indifferent about his characters, if he can only succeed in keeping them, with some show of consistency, within the bounded but still extravagant "maze" of his plot; while Mr. Gilbert—always true to himself—does not seem to stick very faithfully either by character or by plot, but attempts to make everything subservient to his passion for bare psychological analysis. We will devote a little space to tracing out the main characteristics of these works in turn.

Mrs. Oliphant's machinery is of the very simplest, but she manages to educe most exquisite results out of it. Mr. Renton—a man who has won wealth,—because of a discomfiting hint from his sister suddenly takes a whim that he has hardly done justice to his family in framing his will as he has done. He therefore makes a fresh arrangement, the nature of which is only known after his sudden and unexpected death, very soon after the preparation of the document. This document simply requires that seven years elapse before the will can be read. In this time the three sons, on an allowance of 200*l.* a-year each, would show what pith was in them to make their way in the world; and, of course, the presumption is that the distribution of fortune under the will will be somehow determined by results in that direction. So the three sons go forth, weaving each his own proper fabric of fortune, and this is the whole of actual plot in the work. The lives of these three run very far apart, yet the secret will keeps them all in a kind of relation, as being the magic signal which, at the expiry of a given period, must bring the brothers together once more. The eldest, Ben, who, of course, had grown up from boyhood with the expectation of heirship, and who had kept up fashionable rooms in London, sells off all his fine things, acts somewhat stupidly and sheepishly over a Miss Millicent Tracy, to whom an old friend just returned from the colonies introduces him; this friend being bound there with news of the girl's brother, who had died in the colony. Miss Millicent Tracy and her mother are simple adventurers, and Ben's whole contact with them is rendered with perfection of art, especially the last attempt which Millicent makes upon him, on his return from abroad at the end of the seven years, during which she has been married, has lost her husband, and is now once more free for intrigues. Ben, just in time, wakes up to the real nature of this adventure. He has gone abroad with his friend, and made a position as an engineer. Laurie, the lazy, luxurious son, becomes artist, and falls in love with the widow of a painter, herself an artist. The *Padrona*, as he is called, is a fine character, and on her Mrs. Oliphant has bestowed some of her finest touches. Frank, the guardsman, exchanges into another regiment, marries, goes out to India, and does well, and returns with a meek, sweet wife, and a couple of children in the arms of a dusky ayah.

When the fated seven years expires, it is found that there is no will—that Ben, the oldest, succeeds to the estate,—but that the personality has so increased as to be almost as valuable. The only difference is that the three sons have undergone their discipline of self-help with good or ill result, on the whole, according to their characters.

It is evident enough that, in this novel, Mrs. Oliphant, more than in any of her recent ones, has endeavoured to keep the atmosphere clear from that peculiarly fatalistic element with which several of her works are so deeply charged. Here she views the world, on the whole, in a serene and hopeful mood. There is no awful tangle and bewilderment, in which tender and gentle souls unequal to the burden of extrication, fret and pine, and, at length, give up the strife, in their whole life witnessing either mutely or by terrible protest, that "the world is out of joint," as Hamlet held it. The lurid sense of fate in "The Minister's Wife," is pre-eminently of this kind; and the work is accordingly painful to the extent of being

almost painful without purpose. The end of art is to brighten life, even when it brings out life's shadows, by the clear recognition of goodness in the Divine purpose; but Mrs. Oliphant has sometimes even seemed to carry her artistic scepticism over that line, and has seemed to us occasionally to make the helpless moods of her characters the masks for her own depressed and hopeless views of life and providence. In these regards she is an artist in spite of her dogmatic opinions, and not because of them.

And this novel, which seems in some sort reactionary, errs, if it errs at all, because of what seems to us a conscious intention on her part. It is as if she said: "You blame me for 'tincturing my stories of life with shadows and 'with fate, you critics of the better sort, you do; 'see you, I will write something to disprove 'what you please to say of my tendencies 'and capabilities in that direction. I will re-'tell a grand old nursery-tale in most modern 'fashion and in the most modern colouring, and 'give you something of the poetic justice you 'want also, though to me 'tis after all but a 'kind of pap-meal." And so her characters seem to develop themselves all too freely—to the extent even of seeming inconsistent. Ben, for instance, too speedily transforms himself into the acute man of business. This is a glimpse of him just before he comes across the Tracys:—

"He did not know even how to set about being ruined. There was nobody in town likely to buy his pretty things at this time of the year, or to take his rooms off his hands. He had come up fully resolved to be sufficient to himself, to manage everything himself, and to give no one the opportunity of pity or remark. But it was less easy than he supposed. As for his servant, he had been with him at the Manor, and had heard, or found out, or divined, as servants do, something of what had happened, and was not unprepared for dismissal. 'Yes, sir,' he said, without hesitation, when his master spoke to him. 'I hope it's not that I don't give satisfaction, sir? I've always done my best.'"

"No, no," said Ben, with a young man's unnecessary explanation. "I can't afford to keep anybody but myself. I am very sorry. It is not that I have any objection to you."

"Yes, sir," said the man, once more. "Of course it's understood that there's board-wages, sir, if I'm sent away in a hurry before the end of the month?"

"Have what you like," said Ben, with a little indignation. "If that's all, give me a note exactly of what's owing to you, and you can take yourself off as soon as you like."

"Yes, sir; but it looks peculiar being sent away so sudden," said the fellow, standing his ground. "Perhaps you wouldn't mind giving a bit of explanation to any gentleman as may come about my character. I hope you consider I deserve a good character, sir? Gentlemen, and especially ladies, is very apt to ask, 'How was it you was turned away?'"

"You may go now," said Ben, coldly. "I have nothing more to say to you. I'll give you your money as soon as you're ready to go."

"But my character, sir?" insisted the man.

"Ben, in his wrath, seized his hat and went off, leaving Morris holding the door open with these words on his lips. He was unreasonably angry in spite of his better judgment. The very first man he had spoken to after his downfall was so entirely indifferent to his concerns, so wrapped up in his own."

Yet this is the man who, in the engineering concern, supersedes his experienced friend, and makes a small fortune both in reputation and in more solid material in a year or two. It seems as if Mrs. Oliphant, in her reaction, was now to make her characters too free from the defects of their qualities, in other words their temperament, or their fate. Then Mary Westbury, the only one of the characters on whom the least cloud of fate seems to rest, is most deliciously relieved from its enclosing shadows at the last, and marries Ben, or rather is married by Ben, in spite of all the plotting of her old school-mate, Millicent Tracy. The episode of poor Hilyard, the latent fire of whose love is fanned into flame by the confidential reading to him of Mary's letters to Ben when they are together in Canada, is very fresh and tender. We do pity poor Hilyard, notwithstanding that the engineering business, so magically raised, is turned over to him, after Ben's great accession of fortune. Mrs. Oliphant has written an exquisite, pure, and domestic story, in which her dictum that temperament is fate appears more dogmatically than dramatically.

Mr. Wilkie Collins professedly writes with a purpose in "Man and Wife." He is fain to reform the marriage laws of England and Ireland, and is anxious also to testify against the evil results of muscularity by representing one or two specimens of the idle, dissolute sporting man. Geoffrey Delamayn, the son of a lawyer-peer, is one of this type. He has promised to marry Anne Silvester—the daughter of a luckless woman, who, after living for years with him she called her husband, is turned adrift because she was united to him by an irregular Irish marriage. Mr. Collins would have us regard Anne Silvester as being fated to misfortune. Yet all comes out favourably for her at the last, which, on his own showing, says something for the Scotch marriage system as against the Irish.

Delamayn and Anne Silvester chance to meet at a country house in the Perthshire Highlands. Here she demands that he fulfil his promise to her in respect of a secret marriage. He agrees, and she flies from the house to meet him at Craig-Fernie "Hottle." But he fails her, and sends instead his friend Arnold Brinkworth, whom he had once saved from drowning, and who therefore cannot well refuse to be his messenger in what was certainly a most delicate mission, since he was to represent himself at the "Hottle" as Anne Silvester's husband. All the complications of the novel spring out of this; for afterwards, when it suits Delamayn's purposes, he tries to prove that Arnold Brinkworth was legally married to Anne Silvester, prior to his marriage with Sir George Lundie's niece. The novel is a masterpiece in respect to its plot. There are no loose threads in it; everything coheres, holds, and has to do with many things that seem sufficiently remote from it; so that Mr. Collins will here tolerate no slipping. The novel is not only interesting but fascinating; for Mr. Collins has interjected into it sufficient of the criminal and abnormal to make it also piquant enough for the lovers of sensation. Hester Detheridge is a pure monstrosity, and is so steeped in mystery and the odour of murder, that we are somewhat inclined to question the right of even an expert like Mr. Collins, with all his supreme art, to tempt and beguile us into an acquaintance with her. She murders her husband, and runs from the scene of the murder; seeks service, finds it because of her supreme skill in cooking, and is an enigma to all with whom she comes into contact. She contrives to find time, too, to concoct a wondrous artistic diary of the horrors of her exploits, and of this Mr. Collins makes excellent use. She pretends to be dumb; but she hears everything, and other people are no such enigmas to her as she is to them. She is cook at the house where Geoffrey Delamayn and Anne Silvester plan their marriage, and seems to be the only person there who is equal to watching them. And she seems to have done this to purpose; the threads of Delamayn's life and Anne Silvester's being, in the future, strangely linked with hers. Through this hateful creature, we presume, Mr. Collins endeavours to show the evils of women not being better protected against evil and reckless husbands; for he seems to speak so far sympathetically of Hester's manner of disposing of the drunken, worthless wretch.

The situations are most skilfully devised in "Man and Wife," and generally they are made the most of. The characters, however, are mere caricatures. Bishopriggs, the mug waiter at Craig-Fernie "Hottle," is utterly untrue, and considerable ignorance of Scotch life is displayed throughout. But where Mr. Collins is least correct he is most laughable; and Bishopriggs is certainly of value in the novel, as we cannot help being vastly amused with him. Mr. Collins has taken the conventional idea of the sly, sleek, cautious Scotch villain, and has elaborated him so as to suit his own purposes, without the least regard to consistency or truth of delineation. Sir George Lundie—the retired Scotch advocate—is much better. Here we have a good deal of the shrewdness, the dryness, and the readiness we should expect from a clever *habitué* of the Parliament House, turned country gentleman, ere yet very old. Some of the baronet's sallies are excellent; and, when he gets on recondite points of Scotch law, we have good evidence that Mr. Collins has been laborious in getting up his subject. Many a law tome has he read for this work, that glides along with such supreme strength, ease, and animation. The Dowager Lady Lundie, however, is stock. For intention, few novels surpass this of Mr. Collins, and the interest is most skilfully, carefully graduated, as is the action. The dialogue is now and then inexpressibly clever; and, on the whole, the work is equal to anything Mr. Collins has done, though we must say, of course, that it entirely fails with respect to character.

But not so entirely Mr. Gilbert. Here and there he is very lucky in unexpected glances. But they are no more than glances, and he is so disposed to surround you with accessories that not seldom the window seems darkened, so that you look, so to speak, on indefinite shadows. He always becomes clear when he finds some of the sore places of human nature; some of the abnormal and strange inversions of life. This novel is historical. It represents the struggle in Ferrara, when the Protestants rose against the iniquities of the Inquisition. The portraits of the Duchess Renée and Ochord are good, but there is a sense of remoteness; the people and the period are not brought so near as they might have been, even by an inferior artist. For Mr. Gilbert is ever seeking hints of something out of the common, and starts away on long digressions at the beck of his own fancy. This,

* The Three Brothers. By Mrs. OLIPHANT.

Man and Wife. By WILKIE COLLINS (ELLIS).

The Inquisitor. By WILLIAM GILBERT, Author of "Dr. Austin's Guest" (Tinsley).

which may sometimes be an attraction in a pure fiction, is wearying in a historical novel. As an instance of it in this work, we may take Mr. Gilbert's treatment of the Inquisitor's paralysis. Separated from its place in the story, it might be useful; as it is, it simply hangs heavily on the thread of the narrative. And so also with several other references. But Mr. Gilbert's very peculiar powers distinctly proclaim themselves here and there; and those who are in search of characteristics will find hint of many in this book. There is a vast deal of thought in all Mr. Gilbert writes, and he has the faculty of uncovering the strange places of human nature in the easiest and most familiar way. Much more is to be learned from his writings than even he consciously puts there. In spite of its faults, "The Inquisitor" is very readable, and in its opening chapters gives a most graphic picture of the condition of Ferrara just after the great plague.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The Complete Works of W. E. Channing, D.D. With an Introduction. A New Edition, Rearranged. (London: Routledge and Sons.) This very cheap edition of the works of Channing must receive a hearty welcome. Were it for nothing else than the education which a man who has not access to many books may find in the style—chaste, clear, serious—it would be worthy of kindly greeting. Here we have the famous essay on Milton, the article on Napoleon, and the address on Self-Culture—not to speak of the able defence of Unitarianism, which indeed in one form or other touches and communicates itself to all in the volume that has any reference to theology. Channing was not a rigid thinker; was in truth, often superficial; but he brought a mild diffusive sympathy to whatever he dealt with; and made it potent to attract and convince the ordinary type of mind and character. Thus it is that he has a lasting influence. Some of his essays, articles, and discourses, are sadly out of date now, witness a large portion of his Essay on Napoleon; but the gentle whiff of poetry imparts to them all a certain attraction. He hardly appreciates the strong logical points, in Edwards for instance; and himself fails to weigh the import of some expressions in Scripture on which perhaps Edwards and high Calvinists on the other hand generally lay too much stress. It is curious to notice, however, how wholly erroneous are the popular views as to the lines which separate the more cultured Unitarians like Channing and Martineau from orthodox Christians. When one comes to close quarters, one finds there is less real divergence on the part of such Unitarians than one expected to find when viewing matters from a distance. This little paragraph brings out the main point of difference so clearly as not to be unworthy of quotation, though it is old:—

"It is objected to us that we deny the Divinity of Jesus Christ. Now what does this objection mean? What are we to understand by the Divinity of Christ? In the sense in which many Christians, and perhaps a majority, interpret it, we do not deny it, but believe it as firmly as themselves. We believe firmly in the Divinity of Christ's mission and office, that he spoke with Divine authority, and was a bright image of the Divine perfections. We believe that God dwelt in him, manifested Himself through him, taught men by him, and communicated to him his spirit without measure. We believe that Jesus Christ was the most glorious display, expression and representation of God to mankind, so that in seeing and knowing him, we see and know the invisible Father; so that when Christ came, God visited the world and dwelt with men more conspicuously than at any former period. In Christ's words we hear God speaking; in his miracles we behold God acting; in his character and life we see an unsullied image of God's purity and love. We believe then in the Divinity of Christ, as this term is often and properly used. How, then, it may be asked, do we differ from other Christians? We differ in this important respect. Whilst we honour Christ as the Son, representation and image of the Supreme God, we do not believe him to be Supreme God Himself."

If Dr. Channing and the Unitarians could get rid of mystery and content themselves with a purely rational religion—well; but they pass beyond the line, and in holding by revelation in any proper and specific sense, as they do, they admit mystery, and yet retreat in face of the great mystery, scarcely fronting rightly those words of Christ—"I and my Father are one." This volume is every way worthy—well arranged and well printed.

Poems, Essays, and Sketches. By JANET HAMILTON. (Maclehose, Glasgow.) An able contemporary has proved to us that poor old Janet Hamilton sometimes nods. But so does Homer. It is universally admitted Shakespeare sometimes spouts rhodomontade, says a distinguished German. So, as our contemporary himself goes on to admit that Janet does frequently write poetry, it is not needful to fight hard in her defence, as though the laurel was being ruthlessly snatched from her poor old brows! No. Janet has a bit of laurel "garlanding" her poetic brows, though it does not cover all her head. Poor old, noble, hard-striving woman of ninety! if one sprig is but left to gently cover with its greening shadow that sad ageful eye, which so much needs its kindly shield, why should she or we quarrel with discriminating criticism? We will not quarrel with it, for here is a new edition of Janet's works, and may the sale justify her expectations! Our readers doubtless know that Janet Hamilton, the child of poor Scotch parents,

learned to read by striving to spell out bits of the Bible, and taught herself writing by copying out printed characters, the marks of which process her writing still bears. And they no doubt know, too, that she has published two volumes of prose and poetry which awakened not a little curiosity about the peasant woman, who, after reaching the years of a grandmother, kept a spring of life so fresh at her heart, as to be able to indite lyrics like a maiden, and write prose as clear and idiomatic as a classic. It was very astonishing, and that there was something in it is indubitably proved by this collected issue. It is something to write even a lyric or two which promise to abide, and Janet has done this. Some of her Scotch songs are full of artless, naïve freedom, and have the blithe lilt that tells of a true and genuine feeling. Her prose is full of character, and is now and then carelessly humorous and buxom. Scarcely knowing rule, Janet writes chastely, guided by an ear educated to all the niceties of language. Her descriptions of village life are exquisite, and now and then lit up with a humour that stands by itself.

Edward's Wife. (Seeley and Co.) Mrs. Marshall can do better than she has done here. "The Old Gate-way" and "Violet Douglas" are both superior to "Edward's Wife." It is the old complaint; Mrs. Marshall has written enough for the present, and should not be so "easily entreated" of her publishers. We say this with much sincerity, having read most of the author's former productions with much enjoyment. The young lady who gives the title to the book is lovable enough, and her "bambino," as she calls him, appears to have afforded her a good deal of consolation under very trying circumstances, but it cannot be said that the story, unexceptionable as its moral is, presents a very strong *raison d'être*. The single incident of the enforced separation of husband and wife, the former an officer in the Indian army, being the pivot upon which the whole story turns, it will be seen that it is altogether lacking in dramatic force, and for the rest, there are hundreds of books already designed to inculcate the exercise of patience and resignation under affliction.

The United States of America. A History. By ROBERT MACKENZIE. (Nelson and Sons.) The feature of this history is that, short and succinct, it brings American history down to the latest date almost, while yet it begins at the beginning and presents a quick passing panorama of great events. But it is nothing more than this; and is scarcely anything in fact but a skeleton history. It is, however, very well written; and may be found useful in schools; nay, it may be useful to anyone as a sort of index to a large portion of American history, which as yet, to all intents and purposes, lies scattered in documents and in newspapers. As such we recommend it.

Little Rosy's Picture-book—twenty-four coloured illustrations by Lorenz Frolich (Seeley and Co.)—is the first intimation of the approach of the youngsters' book-eason. Let it be noted in prospect of the next birthday, or of the advent of Santa Claus, that here is an excellent book for a good four-year-old. The qualifying adjective is necessary, because a bad child would destroy the book, and it merits better treatment. Its only fault is that it is too good for the nursery.

Hints and Thoughts for Christians. By the Rev. JOHN TODD, D.D. (Bemrose and Son.) A Christian minister of wide experience, and an author who has rejoiced the hearts of two or three generations of young people, has here written pleasantly enough on matters connected chiefly with the religious life in the family in the church and in the world.

Christus Consolator; the Pulpit in Relation to Social Life. By ALEXANDER MACLEOD. (Hodder and Stoughton.) Dr. Alexander Macleod has written twelve chapters in vindication of the modern pulpit and its important functions. We have not found much in them, either to challenge or to regard as strikingly novel. If the preacher realises his own exalted ideal, he is a workman needing not to be ashamed.

Nuts for Boys to Crack, by JOHN TODD, D.D., (Bemrose and Son), is a second edition of a work by the same author. It deserves to be better known than it is. Full of anecdote and dialogue, it is one of the best class of religious books for boys and girls. Especially is it a most suitable book for a Sunday-school present.

Of Mr. P. T. Barnum's *Struggles and Triumphs* (Sampson Low and Co.), it is only necessary to say that its price is half-a-crown, and it would be dear at a shilling.

NEW BOOKS.

The earliest announcement of books for the coming season is this year made by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. So far as may be judged by names and titles, they are likely to prove of more than sectional interest. The principal works are—*Modern Men of Letters*, by J. Hain Friswell, author of the *Gentle Life*; *The Life and Times of the Rev. John Wesley*, by the Rev. Luke Tyerman, who asserts in his preface that he has been accumulating materials for his work for seventeen years, and that he has a large mass of original MSS.; *First Principles of Ecclesiastical Truth*, by the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown; *One Thousand Gems from the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher*, compiled with Mr. Beecher's sanction, by the Rev. G. D. Evans; a second volume of *De Pressence's Early Years of Christianity*, under

the title of *Martyrs and Apologists*; a volume by the Rev. Samuel Martin—*Rain upon Mown Grass*; *The Coming of the Bridegroom*, by Dean Alford; *The Land of the Sun*, by Lieutenant Low; *Van Oosterzee's Theology of the New Testament*; *Incidents in the Life of Ned Wright*, by Edward Leach; and about a dozen other works which we cannot specify.

Mr. Murray announces the long-looked-for *Speaker's Commentary of the Holy Bible*, according to the Authorised Version, with Notes and a revised Translation, by Bishops and Clergy of the Anglican Church—Vol. I., *The Pentateuch*; *A Visit to High Tartary, Yarkand, and Kashgar*, by Robert Shaw; *The Descent of Man, and on Selection in Relation to Sex*, by C. Darwin; *The Student's Elements of Geology*, by Sir Charles Lyell, Bart.; *A Ride through the Disturbed Districts of New Zealand to Lake Taupo at the time of the Rebellion*, from the Journals of the late Hon. Herbert Meade, Lieutenant R.N.; *A Voyage Round the World*, by the Marquis de Beauvoir; *A Biographical Dictionary of the Judges of England, 1868–1870*, by Edward Foss; *Primitive Culture*, by E. B. Tylor; *Some Account of the Mutineers of the Bounty, and their Descendants, in Pitcairn and Norfolk Island*, by Lady Belcher; *The Travels of Marco Polo, a new English Version*, by Colonel H. Yale; *Savonarola, Erasmus, and other Essays*, by H. H. Milman, D.D.; *The Revolt of the Protestants in the Cevennes*, by Mrs. Bray; *Lord Byron, translated from the German*, by Carl Elze; *Longevity of Man, its Facts and its Fictions*, by W. J. Thoms; the fourth volume of Canon Robertson's *History of the Christian Church*; *The Metallurgy of Gold, Silver, and Mercury*, by J. Percy, M.D.; *The Gallican Church; Sketches of Church History in France, from the Concordat of Bologna, 1516, to the Revolution*, by W. H. Jervis, M.A.; *The Correspondence of the late Earl of Elgin*, edited by T. Walrond; *Stories for Darlings*, by The Sun; *The Schools of Painting in North Italy*, by J. A. Crowe and G. B. Cavalcaselle; *The Student's Manual of Ancient History*, edited by W. Smith, LL.D.; *Scrambles among the Alps, 1860–69*, by E. Whymper; *New English Version of Catullus*, by Robinson Ellis, M.A.; *A Dictionary of Christian Antiquities, from the Times of the Apostles to the Age of Charlemagne*, and *A Dictionary of Christian Biography and Doctrines*, by various authors, edited by W. Smith, D.C.L.; *A Copious English Grammar*, by Professor Maestner; and *Elucidations of Professor Curtius's Greek Grammar*, translated from the German by Evelyn Abbot.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE.

A marriage has been arranged, with the consent of Her Majesty the Queen, between Her Royal Highness Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorn, eldest son of the Duke of Argyll, by Lady Elizabeth Georgina Sutherland-Lesveson Gower, eldest daughter of the second Duke of Sutherland. The Marquis, who was educated at Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge, is twenty-five years of age, and has, since February, 1868, represented Argyllshire in Parliament. The Princess was born in March, 1848, and is consequently three years younger than the noble Marquis. The marriage is not likely to take place before February. It is stated to be an engagement arising out of pure affection. There is no precedent for the marriage of a member of the reigning family with a subject since the marriage of the Duke of York, afterwards James II., with Lady Anne Hyde, daughter of Lord Chancery Clarendon, but before the Stuarts such marriages were not infrequent.

The *Observer* says:—"It is expected that Parliament will be asked to present the Princess Louise, on her marriage with the Marquis of Lorn, with the same dowry as that granted to the Princess Helena on her marriage to Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, namely, 30,000*l.*, and an annuity of 8,000*l.*" Although no precise date has yet been announced for the marriage, it is understood that the nuptials will probably take place about the first week in February. The interesting ceremony will most likely be celebrated at Windsor Castle.

The London correspondent of the *Western Morning News* says:—

The Princess is the most pleasing member of the Royal Family, so far as personal beauty is concerned. Some time ago she expressed a strong wish to enter the Anglican Sisterhood at Clewer. The proposal met with small favour on the part of our Broad-Church Queen, and it is probable that it quickened Her Majesty's wish to see her daughter happily settled. There is one other circumstance worth mentioning in connection with this interesting topic. A few years ago the Duke of Argyll, who is the happy father of a dozen children, put one of his sons in business, contending that the old barrier between the peerage and mercantile life ought to be broken down. Probably he did not then foresee the honour which awaited him, nor imagined that by taking that step he would be giving a Royal Princess a wine-merchant for her brother-in-law. Both events teach the same lesson. The one that the peerage is seeking to strengthen itself by alliance with the middle-class; the other that Royalty is seeking to strengthen itself by alliance with the peerage.

The Duke of Argyll and the Marquis of Lorn are on a visit to the Queen at Balmoral, and dined with Her Majesty on Friday.

The Prince of Wales laid the foundation-stone of the new Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh on Thursday with Masonic honours. The line of route of the pro-

cession was crowded by thousands of spectators, and the Prince and Princess were loudly cheered. A salute was fired from the castle while the Prince was performing the ceremony. In the evening their Royal Highnesses left for London.

Prince Arthur rejoined the garrison at Woolwich on Friday. The Prince will continue to reside at the Ranger's House, Greenwich Park, and will drive over daily to Woolwich.

Earl Granville has been confined to his residence, at Walmer Castle, by an attack of gout, but has now returned to London.

The *Gazette* contains a notification that the Queen has conferred on Sir William Tite the Order of the Bath.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster has arrived at Balmoral Castle as the Minister in attendance on the Queen.

The Princess of Wales and her children arrived at Marlborough House on Friday from Scotland. The Prince on leaving Edinburgh on Thursday night proceeded to Stirlingshire on a visit to Colonel Murray. He is expected in town to-day.

Mr. Disraeli has accepted an invitation to attend a Lancashire Conservative demonstration after Christmas. The right hon. gentleman is now on a visit to the Earl of Derby at Knowsley.

Mr. J. S. Mill contradicts the report that he had left London for Avignon, "to ensure the safety of manuscripts and other valuable property." Mr. Mill says that he has not been in France since the declaration of war, and that he has neither intention nor need to take any such measures.

The *Times* is authorised to state that the rumoured death of Lord St. Leonards is untrue. By a singular coincidence his lordship has twice had an opportunity of reading his own biography. His death was announced at Christmas in 1866, and several papers published an obituary before they discovered that it was his lordship's son who had died. No explanation has yet been offered of the present announcement. But it is not difficult to account for it. Lord St. Leonards has for some months been the victim of a series of hoaxes. Several weeks ago a telegram was sent to his daughter at Torquay, summoning her instantly to her father, who was said to be dying, whereas he was hale and hearty. The present false report has probably a similar origin.

THE METROPOLITAN SCHOOL BOARD.

At a preliminary meeting of Wesleyan Methodists residing within the city of Westminster, which was numerously attended, Dr. Rigg was unanimously requested to stand as a candidate for the Metropolitan School Board for the Westminster district, and the meeting pledged itself to use every effort to secure his election. An executive committee was also formed. Mr. John Chubb, of St. Paul's-churchyard, offers himself as a candidate for representing the City of London on the Board, also Mr. G. W. Hastings, who is well known as having devoted great attention to primary education. On Friday evening a large and influential meeting of the newly-formed association took place at the Board Room, Spring-gardens, for the purpose of considering the best means to be adopted to secure the election to the School Board for London of representatives desirous of making efficient provision for the educational wants of the metropolis, and favourable to religious teaching. The chair was taken by Viscount Sandon, M.P. The secretary reported that he had received letters from the following gentlemen, approving of the objects of the association, and consenting to serve on the committee:—Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., Viscount Enfield, M.P., Earl Russell, K.G., the Rev. Dr. Raleigh, Mr. E. N. Buxton, and other influential gentlemen. A long discussion took place, and resolutions were eventually passed, by which it was decided that prompt and energetic action should at once be taken in every district of the metropolis; that the central committee shall at once place itself in communication with influential gentlemen known to be favourable to religious teaching in the different districts, urging them to form local committees, and organise a series of large public meetings, and secure efficient speakers to bring the importance of the subject, and the short time at their disposal, prominently before the ratepayers; that working men shall not be ineligible; that in order to guard against the return of secularists and objectionable candidates, local committees be requested to ascertain the opinion of candidates before nomination; that the various districts be solicited to endeavour to agree upon the most suitable candidate to be supported, and that the safer course will be to nominate a lesser number than allowed for in the various boroughs. It was then resolved that Earl Russell, K.G., be appointed president, and Viscount Sandon, M.P., chairman of the executive; and that Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., and Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., be appointed honorary secretaries.

It is said to be likely that amongst the candidates in Westminster (which is to return five members) will be Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Viscount Sandon, M.P., Mr. J. Talbot, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Barry, Mr. J. A. Shaw Stewart, Dr. Brewer, M.P., and Alderman Salomons, M.P. Other names are freely mentioned. Mr. Crescens Robinson, of the Atlas Paper Works, Borough-road, and Mr. E. H. Bayley, of Newington-causeway (a vestryman), have offered themselves as candidates for South-wark.

Amongst other gentlemen named as likely to be invited to become candidates are Mr. Scott, the City Chamberlain, Mr. George Moore, and Mr. Abbis,

for the City of London; Mr. Hepworth Dixon and Mr. Blanchard Jerrold for Marylebone; the Rev. Septimus Hansard, the Rev. J. Allanson Piton, M.A.; Mr. W. Green, of Stormont House, Clapton, for Hackney. Mr. Holms, M.P., has declined the nomination for this district. For Lambeth, the following are named—Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, Mr. B. Hannen, and Mr. W. R. Selway. Mr. George Offer is asked to stand for the Sydenham district of the Greenwich division.

The following list of working men's candidates has been adopted by the parties assuming to act for them:—Southwark—Messrs. Allen, Gule, and Fairbairn; Lambeth—Messrs. Hole, Applegarth, Stainsby, Howell, and Lloyd Jones—Westminster, Messrs. G. Potter and R. Marsden Latham; Marylebone—Messrs. Cremer and Drutt; Finsbury—Messrs. Odger, Luff, and Pashley; Hackney—Mr. Hales; Tower Hamlets—Messrs. Spelling and Robson. The adjourned conference of the Trades' Unionist party was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday evening, Mr. Payne in the chair. A considerable number of representative working men were present, including Messrs. Odger, Latham, Potter, Allen, Cremer, Osborne, Shipton, Pratt, Jones, &c. There was considerable discussion, in which Messrs. Odger, Lloyd Jones, Pratt, G. Potter, Williams, Cremer, Johnson, Allen, the Rev. Mr. Macbeth, and Messrs. Evans and Shipton took part. The general conclusions arrived at were:—That no action beyond advice should be taken by the Council of the League on the various local elections; that no more working men candidates should be put up in any borough than there was a reasonable chance of returning; that wherever by a compromise a working man could be returned such compromise should be acted upon; that the Council of the League should take means to ascertain the exact number of candidates in each borough who support the principles held by the League, and when the number is in excess of those likely to succeed, use its best efforts, by advice and counsel, to reduce the number of candidates to a minimum; and that the Council of the League should issue an address to the metropolitan electors upon the principles on which the elections should be conducted.

Miscellaneous.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Sir Richard Baggallay was on Monday elected, without opposition, member for Mid-Surrey, in the room of the Hon. W. Brodrick, who has been called to the Upper House on the death of his father, Viscount Middleton. The new member is, as was his predecessor, a Conservative. The death of the much-respected Mr. Gurdon Rebow creates a vacancy for Colchester. Sir Thomas Abdy having declined to stand in the Liberal interest, Sir H. Storks has been asked to contest the seat, in opposition to the Conservative candidate, Col. Learmouth.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—The Convocation of the Queen's University of Ireland met on Tuesday, and on a report expressing satisfaction with the progress of the institution being moved for adoption, Mr. F. H. O'Donnell, of Galway, proposed an amendment, to the effect:—

First, that the Queen's University in Ireland, and its collegiate examinations, are discreditable to it as a teaching institution; secondly, that the text-books of the Queen's University disentitle it to the confidence of Catholics, and that said report is seriously deficient, and requires to be amended before it can be received and adopted.

Sir Robert Kane, who was in the chair, said the amendment was extraneous matter. The meeting of convocation, he added, was not the proper place to discuss it. "No human institution was ever created perfect, and if there be anything which crept into the text-books that could disentitle the University to the confidence of Roman Catholics, it would be the business of the authorities of the colleges and of the Senate of the Queen's University to at once remedy the evil, on proper application being made to them for that purpose." The chairman ruled that the amendment could not be received. Mr. O'Donnell contended that under the 22nd section of the Charter they had power to discuss any matter relating to the University. The chairman held that there should be due notice. Mr. O'Donnell finally moved the rejection of the report, but it was nevertheless carried. Mr. O'Donnell then left the hall, uttering the words: "Strike me off the roll of Convocation; strike me off the roll of the University. I leave this hall never to enter it again."

THE MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES AND THE MUSIC HALLS.—The Middlesex magistrates have been holding a sitting for the renewal of music and dancing licences. Upon the application of Mr. Strange for a renewal of the licence to the Alhambra being made, a report was read, signed by Inspector Perry and Sergeant Pope, of the C division of police, describing a ballet which they saw performed at the Alhambra on the 8th instant, which was indecent and very objectionable. Mr. Poland reminded the court that 450 persons who were employed in various ways in putting these ballets on the stage would be thrown out of employment if the licence for dancing were not renewed. Mr. Pownall said that if persons undertook employment to pander to the depraved taste of a certain small section of the public, they must themselves take the consequences. The bench ultimately unanimously refused the licence for dancing. The licence for music was granted. Application was made for a renewal of a licence for music and dancing for Highbury Barn Tavern; but con-

siderable opposition was offered by the inhabitants of the district and the vestry of the parish of Islington. A report was presented from Captain Harris, Assistant-Commissioner of Police, stating that he visited the gardens in June last, and that what he saw was utterly disgusting. All the magistrates, with the exception of three, who abstained from voting, were against the renewal of the licence for dancing; and that for music only was, therefore, granted. An application for a dancing licence for the Royal Music-hall, Holborn, was withdrawn.

Gleanings.

AN AMERICAN ON ENGLAND.—A citizen of Brooklyn who had been on a visit to England has sent to the *Brooklyn Eagle* a lively account of the impressions made on him by London. He has many faults to find—the streets are not straight, the hotels are not cheerful, you are charged a perplexing multiplicity of small items, there are so many servants to fee. Everywhere in London a fee is expected by attendants. "You never know when you are through giving, I am not sure but the Lord Mayor would accept a *pour boire*." The steamboats on the river have miserable cabins below, and no awning on the deck; the railway cars are divided into small compartments, and are too low for a man to stand upright in. Thus our visitor runs on for a while; but he soon turns to "the other side." He found a great deal in London to admire, and he says so plainly. "The financial centre of the world" almost awed him: "grand, firm, and solid, London sits Imperial monarch of this age of gold." He is charmed with "the universal courtesy, refinement, and politeness of the people." He asked the way, and "was accompanied a block by a gentleman." "I lost two articles in London, both were returned to me. Even the little newboys say 'thanks,' always give you the correct change, wear shoes and stockings and comb their hair. I went into the delivery department of some of the papers. Not one such den of young tigers as that in the lower part of the *Eagle* office at 4 p.m. can be found in all London. Such an exhibition would call out the police and compel you to employ different agencies or not sell your papers." "There was not a vacant seat or aisle stool in the six tiers of Drury-lane Theatre, and yet during the play everything was as still as if at a morning church prayer. Not a cough was heard, or a fan fluttered. It was quite the same in Spurgeon's church, where were seated 7,000 persons, and yet the cough was suppressed, the feet were kept in place, the dress was not ruffled, and it was not difficult to hear in the remote part of the building." Here is one of the things that fairly puzzled the visitor. "The shopman, without hesitation, informs us that there is cotton in the silk we are purchasing, and that the gold jewel is not solid." Finally, our cousin does us the honour to say that he has learnt to "have more confidence in his fellow-men, and must respect such a people."

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

ALDIS.—August 26, at Calcutta, Mrs. Jas. A. Aldis, of a son.
STEWART.—October 9, at West Hill House, Hastings, Mrs. John Stewart, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

JELLIE-BEARD.—October 13, at the Independent Chapel, Coggeshall, Essex, by the Revs. A. D. Philips and Joseph Hall, the Rev. W. H. Jellie, of the Vines Congregational Church, Rochester, to Sarah, only daughter of John Beard, Esq., of Coggeshall. No Cards.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 39, for the week ending Wednesday, Oct. 12.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,524,650	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,981,000
		Gold Coins & Bullion	21,524,650
	£36,524,650		£36,524,650

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities	£12,919,145
Reserve	3,091,799	Other Securities	16,169,455
Public Deposits	4,116,728	Notes	12,187,640
Other Deposits	19,320,978	Gold & Silver Coin	787,783
Seven Day and other			
Bills	921,500		
	£42,071,003		£42,071,003

Oct. 13, 1870

Geo. Forbes, Chief Cashier.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Diseases of the Digestive Organs.—These admirable Pills contain no mercury nor other noxious ingredient, and are therefore peculiarly adapted for those ailments which often attack the mucous membranes during autumn. Holloway's Pills cleanse the blood, stomach, liver, and lungs from all hurtful impurities, and subdue the local irritation. They improve the powers of digestion, and speedily eradicate all disorders of the liver, bowels, and kidneys. A course of these cooling Pills prevents the distressing bilious attacks induced by variable or humid weather, and dispels flatulency, giddiness, headache, and costiveness. As purifiers of the blood, Holloway's Pills stand unrivalled, hence the power they possess of clarifying the complexion, removing sallowness, checking the growth of pimples, and renovating the vital functions.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Oct. 17.

We had a moderate supply of English wheat and large arrivals from abroad. The market to-day was firmer, and English wheat realised an advance of fully 1s. per qr. on the rates of Monday last. Foreign wheat being in large supply, sold at previous quotations. Country flour was without alteration in value. Peas and beans sold slowly at previous prices. Barley was in fair demand, and made former prices. Indian corn met a fair demand at a little decline. The arrivals of oats being again heavy prices have given way 1s. per quarter since this day week. At the ports of call we have liberal arrivals. Prices of cargoes are well maintained to-day for wheat and Indian corn.

CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per Qr.	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
Best and Kent	— to —	— to —	— to —
Red	46 48	46 48	46 48
Ditto new	— to —	— to —	— to —
White	50 53	50 53	50 53
„ new	47 49	47 49	47 49
Foreign red	49 51	49 51	49 51
„ white	— to —	— to —	— to —
BARLEY—			
English malting	31 34	31 34	31 34
Chevalier	35 42	35 42	35 42
Distilling	35 38	35 38	35 38
Foreign	33 36	33 36	33 36
MALT—			
Pale	— to —	— to —	— to —
Chevalier	— to —	— to —	— to —
Brown	49 53	49 53	49 53
BEANS—			
Ticks	37 40	37 40	37 40
Harrow	40 44	40 44	40 44
Small	— to —	— to —	— to —
Egyptian	38 40	38 40	38 40

BREAD, London, Saturday, Oct. 15.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheat Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Oct. 17.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 11,548 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 9,037; in 1868, 9,633; in 1867, 11,092; and in 1866, 15,267 head. Very little variation was apparent in the cattle trade to-day, but the tone of the market was quiet. The arrivals from our own grazing districts were about an average, and notwithstanding the state of the grass lands, the quality of the animals was not inferior. Some falling off however, was apparent in the arrivals from the midland counties. The imports have been on a steady scale. The aggregate number of beasts exhibited to-day was therefore not large. Increased supplies of dead meat have been sent through Smithfield market, and butchers have been able to supply their wants freely; accordingly the trade was not active to-day, and the tendency of prices was downwards, particularly for inferior animals. The decline was scarcely quotable, and choice Scotch and Hereford heifers fully commanded late rates, say 6s. per 8lbs. The few foreign beasts exhibited changed hands on former terms. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 1,650 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England, about 250 of various breeds; from Scotland, 150 Scots and crosses; and from the coast of Ireland, about 100 head. The sheep market was quiet and without material change. Supplies were fairly numerous, but the condition of the animals was inferior. Trade ruled dull, but last Monday's values were maintained for all descriptions. Best southdown half bred wethers have occasionally made 6s. per 8lbs. Calves have been dull, and there has not been much demand for pigs.

For 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	8	Prime Southdowns	5	8
Second quality	4	8	Lamba	0	0
Prime large oxen	5	2	Lge. coarse calves	3	6
Prime 8 to 10	5	10	Prime small	5	0
Coarse inf. sheep	3	6	Large hogs	4	4
Second quality	4	0	Neat-m. porkers	5	6
Pr. coarse woolled	4	8			
Suckling calves, 00s. to 00s., and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 20s. each.					

Buckling calves, 00s. to 00s., and quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Oct. 17.—Large supplies of meat have been on sale. The trade has been heavy, and prices have ruled as under. The imports into London last week comprised of 483 packages from Hamburg, 17 Rotterdam, and 86 carcasses from Rotterdam.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

from Ireland were 432 firkins butter and 2,756 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 26,270 packages butter, and 973 bales bacon. The Irish butter market was very inactive. Supplies of foreign increasing, prices remained about the same, with the exception of best Dutch, which advanced to 13s. to 13s. 6d. In Waterford and Hamburg bacon trade remains slow, and all descriptions decline 2s. per cwt., but Cork and Lim rich remained without change in value.

PROVISIONS, Monday, Oct. 17.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 422 firkins butter and 2,756 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 26,270 packages butter, and 975 bales bacon. The Irish butter market was very inactive. Supplies of foreign increasing, prices remained about the same, with the exception of best Dutch, which advanced to 13½s. to 13½s. In Waterford and Hamburg bacon trade remains slow, and all descriptions decline 1s. per cwt., but Cork and Lim rick remained without change in value.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Oct. 15.—Trade continues exceedingly dull, with scarcely any variation in prices. Pears now comprise, among leading varieties, Marie Louise, Gansel's Pergamon, and Duchesse d'Angoulême. Among apples may be mentioned Ribston Pippin, Cox's Orange Pippin, Blenheim, and Kerry Pippin. Hamburg Grapes are arriving in large quantities; quality unusually fine and low prices being realised. Oranges (new) have just shown themselves. Kent Cob Nuts and Filberts are almost a failure in crop; they are realising from 100s. to 120s. per 100 lbs. New chestnuts have commenced; an unusually fine season for them. Amongst flowers we have Asters, Fuchsias, Bouvardias, Pompon Chrysanthemums, Mignonette, Valota purpurea, and a few good Heaths.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Oct. 17.—Our market is still oppressed by large quantities of hops, there being no active demand to clear the boards; and inferior grades, from the anxiety of holders to clear out, are offered at somewhat lower rates; finer sorts only maintaining late values. The arrivals from the Continent are still moderate, amounting up to the present period to 2,548 bales, and at present do not give promise of the fine qualities we were some time back led to expect. For yearlings and olds of all kinds there is no demand. European hops are only in limited supply, and the quality offered is at present inferior. Latest advices from New York report the market as dull, with a slight decline in prices. The quality of the new crop is not so good as expected. Mid and East Kent, 2½s., 4½s., 4½s. to 7½s.; Wealds 2½s., 3½s., 4½s., to 4½s.; Sussex, 2½s., 2½s. to 3½s.; Farnham and country, 3½s., 4½s., to 6½s.; Olds 1½s., 1½s., to 2½s.

SEED, Monday, Oct. 17.—English cloverseed comes out slowly. Some of low quality is now showing, which is offered at moderate price, whilst choice purple qualities still command high prices. Foreign red samples were held quite as much money. The best white samples were fully as dear. New white mustardseed was offered on former terms, and was in limited request. Winter tares were placed in small lots, at

very moderate rates. Not much passing in trefoil, which was held at previous values. English canaryseed realised former rates. Foreign can be bought at lower prices.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Oct. 17.—These markets have been fully supplied with potatoes. The trade has been steady at our quotations. The import in London last week comprised 20 baskets from Amsterdam, 16 bags Hamburg, 50 baskets 10 bags Rotterdam, and 113 bags from Antwerp. English Regents, 50s. to 100s. per ton; Scotch Regents, 70s. to 80s. per ton; Rocks, 50s. to 60s. per ton; French, 60s. to 70s.

OIL, Monday, Oct. 17.—Limeoil has been in moderate request. Rape has been quiet. Other oils have been steady in value, but the demand for them has not been active.

TALLOW, Monday, Oct. 17.—The market has been firm. Y.O., on the spot, 4½s. 3d. per cwt. Town Tallow, 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, Oct. 17.—Market firm at last day's rates. Elliot Wallend, 18s. 6d.; Huttons, 19s.; Huttons Braddys, 17s. 9d.; Harton, 16s. 6d.; Haswell, 19s.; Hartlepool, original, 19s.; Hartlepool, ditto, 18s. 6d.; Kellon, 18s.; Tunstall, 16s. 6d.; Eden Main, 17s.; Holywell Main, 17s. 6d.; Hartley's, 16s. 6d.; Tanfield, 14s. 9d. Ships fresh arrived, 39. Ships left from last day, 8; total, 47. Ships at sea, 25.

Advertisements.

QUEENSLAND.

QUEENSLAND under the Land Act of 1868 and the Immigration Act of 1869. Land acquired on easy terms. Assisted and Free Passages. Information and particulars to be obtained on application.

JOHN DOUGLAS, Agent-General.

Queensland Government Offices,
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Removed from 2, Old Broad Street.

WHITTINGTON LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Chief Office:—37, Moorgate-street, London.

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MODERATE RATES of Premiums—especially for young lives. BONUS have been declared in 1860, 1863, 1866, and 1869. POLICIES made payable during lifetime.

INVALID AND SECOND-CLASS LIVES insured on a new principle.

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THE NATIONAL SOCIETY for AID to the SICK and WOUNDED in WAR.

President—H.R.H. the Prince of WALES, K.G., &c.
Chairman of Central Committee—Lieut-Colonel LOYD-LINDSAT, V.O., M.P.

The Central Committee request that Local Committees will REMIT each WEDNESDAY, to Messrs. Coutts and Co., the AMOUNT COLLECTED during the preceding week, advertising the names of subscribers in the local newspapers, and sending a copy of the same to the Secretary. It is also urgently requested that they will have all materials of the same sort packed together, a list of contents written on each bale, and an invoice of the same sent to the Secretary every Saturday. The stores to be retained by Local Committees until orders are given about them.

In future subscriptions of less than 5s. will not be advertised separately. Stores most wanted at present are flannel coats, shirts, trousers, and cholera belts. The Committee cannot receive contributions sent for the wounded of one belligerent army, but will expend everything as impartially as possible.

O. J. BURGESS, Secretary.
2, St. Martin's place, Trafalgar-square, Sept. 7, 1870.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM, for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS.

The HALF-YEARLY MEETING and ELECTION of this School will be held at the MISSION HOUSE, BLOMFIELD-STREET, on TUESDAY, 23rd inst., from Two to Four p.m. THREE BOYS to be Elected.

JOSIAH VINEY, Hon. Sec.

LAW.—To SOLICITORS.—A YOUNG

MAN, twenty years of age, who is at present engaged as shorthand writer to a firm of Solicitors at a salary of 35s. a week, is anxious to ATTEND himself to a SOLICITOR in good practice. His friends would pay stamp duty, &c.; and, in lieu of a premium, he would offer his services in the above capacity with ut salary.—X. Y. Z, 98, London Wall, E.C.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 37, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, W.C. Beds, from 1s. 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

"We are more than satisfied; we are truly delighted to find in London so quiet and comfortable a domicile. We shall certainly highly recommend Shirley's to all our friends."—J. ROBERTS, Bourne.

"As on all previous visits, I can testify that this is the most comfortable home I find when away from home."—W. B. HARVEY, Frouse.

"After visiting various places in England, I have come to consider Shirley's (in view of its combining the greatest comfort and respectability, with the most moderate charges) as the Temperance Hotel par excellence."—J. K. KARCHER, Toronto, C.W.

KERSHAW'S FAMILY and PRIVATE HOTEL, 14, Charter House-square, Aldersgate-street, London.

Visitors to London will meet with a comfortable home at the above Establishment, which is pleasantly and centrally situated within five minutes' walk of the General Post Office and one minute from the Aldersgate-street station of the Metropolitan Railway.

Terms 5s. per day, including Bed, Breakfast, Tea, and attendance. Private Sitting Rooms.

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BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT £5 0

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BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, " £2 10

BROOCHES, NINEVEH, " £3 0

BROOCHES, SAXON, " £4 0

BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, " £5 0

CHAINS, PRINCESS, " £2 0

CHAINS, CYLINDER, " £3 0

CHAINS, CURB, " £4 0

CHAINS, CABLE, " £5 0

EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, " £1 10

EARRINGS, SAXON, " £2 5

EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, " £3 5

EARRINGS, NINEVEH, " £4 10

LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, " £1 0

LOCKETS, CORDED, " £2 10

LOCKETS, CROSS, " £4 0

GOLD WATCHES, LADIES', £8 8

GOLD WATCHES, " £10 10

GOLD WATCHES, ½-PLATE, £15 15

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £11 11

GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE, £16 16

GOLD WATCHES, " £20 0

GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS £15 10

GOLD WATCHES, " £22 0

GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING), £18 18

CLOCKS, CARRIAGE, £5 0

CLOCKS, " (STRIKING), £7 7

CLOCKS, " " (ON GONG), £12 12

CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE), £4 0

CLOCKS, " " £10 12

CLOCKS, " " £14 0

CLOCKS, " (ORMOLU), £10 0

CLOCKS, " " £15 0

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,

BOUND in CLOTH, is now Ready,

POST FREE for TWO STAMPS, only of

MR. STREETER, 37, CONDUIT-STREET,

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UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE for the TOTAL SUPPRESSION of the LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of the Members and Friends of the United Kingdom Alliance will be held on WEDNESDAY, October 26th, 1870, in the Large Room of the FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER.

The following Gentlemen are expected to take part:—The Ven. Archbishop Sandford, B.D.; Sir Wilfred Lawson, Bart., M.P.; Hugh Birley, Esq., M.P.; Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P.; M. R. Dalway, Esq., M.P.; Hugh Mason, Esq., J.P., Ashton; Samuel Pope, Esq., Q.C., Recorder of Bolton; John S. Wright, Esq., Birmingham; Counsellor Alexander M. Sullivan, Dublin; Rev. G. W. Oliver, Wesleyan Training College, Westminster; Gurney Pease, Esq., Darlington.

The Chair will be taken by Sir CHARLES E. TREVELYAN, K.C.B., Ex Governor of Madras.

Admission by Ticket. Reserved Seats, One Shilling; Gallery and Body of Hall, Free; to be obtained at the Alliance Offices.

Registered Seats may be secured at 1s. 6d. each at the Alliance Offices.

Doors open at Six, and Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock prompt.

The General Council will sit in the Assembly Room from Ten to Three.

United Kingdom Alliance,
41, John Dalton-street, Manchester.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—TWO

PARTNERS in an old-established Manufacturing Business DESIRE to meet with a YOUNG MAN to come in as JUNIOR PARTNER, and to take an active part in the Management as fast as he acquires knowledge of the details. Share of profit in proportion to the amount of capital brought (£2,000 to £4,000). Or, if preferred, a year's trial may be arranged, with definite percentage on capital, before partnership is entered upon, during which year (or more) every facility will be given for learning the business. The mills are in a country village in a Midland County, and every opportunity afforded for ascertaining both the social and mercantile standing of the partners. A young unmarried man preferred, who could reside with one of the partners.—Apply to Messrs. Snow and Atkins, Solicitors, Birmingham.

MISS FLETCHER, of 13, Powis-square, Brighton, RECEIVES a limited number of BOYS, ages from 8 to 13. A resident Tutor instructs in Latin and Arithmetic. The year is divided into Three Terms.

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The Rev. OSWALD JACKSON RECEIVES a limited number of PUPILS, and, with the assistance of Resident and Visiting Masters, prepares them for Public Examinations, for the Professions, or for Business. Mr. Jackson's aim is to furnish the special advantages of a first-class private school, by sedulous personal attention to the moral and intellectual improvement as well as the health and comfort of his Pupils.

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Order of your Chemist, Grocer, or Chandler, and insist on using no others. The Patentees, J. C. and J. FIELD, Upper Marsh, Lambeth, London, who supply the Trade only, will be happy to answer any inquiry as to the nearest agency where these wonderful candles can be obtained.

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ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Professor PEPPER'S New Entertainment, exhibiting the effects, and describing the various modes of causing GHOSTS of human beings to appear and disappear at pleasure, crawl, walk, leap, and dance on walls and ceilings, or float in space. Fairy gambols, children dancing on the sides of walls and romping about the ceiling like flies. The whole illustrated and explained daily at quarter to 3 and quarter to 8.—Mr. Suchet Champion's Musical Notes from the Opera of "DER FREISCHUTZ."—Sard and the Suez Canal.—American Organ daily.—The whole for 1s.

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